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# THE TIMES

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**Fear that diplomats may become hostages as Kuwait embassies plan to defy order to close**

## America calls up 40,000 army reserves

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ANDREW MC EWEN IN LONDON

**PRESIDENT** Bush yesterday authorised the call-up of an estimated 40,000 reservists as tension increased over Iraq's deadline of tomorrow for the closing of all embassies in Kuwait.

The call-up marked the first mobilisation of reserves for military service since North Vietnam's Tet offensive in 1968.

Mr Bush did not put a figure on the call-up, but Pentagon officials said they expected about 40,000 reservists to return to active duty by the end of the month. The president has the authority to activate up to 200,000 men for 90 days without further authority from Congress and can extend that for another 90 days.

Iraq's order to close the embassies in Kuwait has provoked anger and apprehension, but many countries have rejected it, giving rise to fears of diplomats being taken hostage in all but name.

Baghdad repeated its warning that those diplomats who remained in Kuwait would be treated as ordinary citizens, which might mean that they could be sent to military establishments or factories to be used as human shields. This would probably not provoke a Western military response, but would make the prospects for a diplomatic solution even slighter.

Michael Weston, the British ambassador, and Nathaniel Howell, his American counterpart, were among those expected to remain at their posts, although with reduced

staffs. Britain, which had 21 diplomats at the time of the invasion, was down to eight yesterday. Their number will be reduced to four by tomorrow. The others will move to the British embassy in Baghdad. America intends to evacuate all but a few of its 120 diplomats. Most European Community countries and Iraq. It is unclear how many will be allowed to leave.

There was confusion yesterday after an Iraqi official in Kuwait told an Italian diplomat that citizens of some EC countries would be allowed to leave. Britain was not among them. Whitehall sources said last night that a senior Iraqi official at the foreign ministry in Baghdad had denied that there was any change.

Saudi Arabia said it would start accepting new recruits for its armed forces from Saturday. King Fahd ordered the opening of recruiting and training centres throughout the country, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

Virgilio Rognoni, Italy's defence minister, confirmed that Rome would send two frigates and a supply ship to the Gulf. The vessels were among five Italian ships deployed in the eastern Mediterranean in the past week.

King Hussein of Jordan said he would visit Iraq and other Arab countries to try to avert war. "We are almost facing the kind of crisis of a world gone mad," he said. His tour is likely to start today.

Mr Hurd continued to discourage a view that conflict is almost inevitable. "We do not want to use force, we want the UN Security Council's resolutions to work. We want the economic sanctions to bring an end to aggression," he told the BBC.

Mr Kinnock, the Labour leader, supported the prime minister's handling of the situation and said Labour had it been in power, would have taken similar decisions.

Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed, foreign minister of Kuwait, said in Peking that Chinese leaders had assured him that China would not veto a proposed UN resolution that would allow countries with naval forces in the Gulf to enforce trade sanctions, using minimum force.

China and the other four permanent members of the Security Council held further talks in New York, but again failed to pass such a resolution.

Claims that sea levels will rise and flood low-lying land because of global warming were not supported by evidence. The southern part of the Greenland ice sheet is thickening at the rate of 20cm a year, the British Association was told yesterday. Page 19

**Trade gap worsening**

Britain's trade gap widened last month against expectations, increasing the current account deficit from £1.26 billion to £1.39 billion.

Analysts had forecast a fall because of the slow-down in the economy and a stronger pound cutting the price of imports. But though imports were 2% lower than June, exports were down by 3.5%.

Page 19

**Warming dispute**

Claims that sea levels will rise and flood low-lying land because of global warming were not supported by evidence. The southern part of the Greenland ice sheet is thickening at the rate of 20cm a year, the British Association was told yesterday. Page 19

**Credit action**

Legal proceedings are to be brought against the four main credit reference agencies by the Data Protection Registrar for their failure to stop passing information to lenders about individuals who are not seeking credit. Page 6

**Township toll**

After the collapse of peace moves, factional war resumed in South Africa yesterday. Rival factions shot, stabbed or burnt to death at least 37 people. Page 7

**Degree courses**

A list of vacancies remaining for degree courses at British universities is published today. Page 25

**Accountancy**

Results of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants' June 1990 exams appear today. Page 10

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some East European, Nordic and Asian nations are also refusing to close their embassies.

Departing from a previous reluctance to use the word "hostage", Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday told the BBC: "So long as we have citizens held (in Kuwait) as hostages, we must do our utmost to keep our own folk there... someone in touch with them."

Mr Hurd has discouraged speculation that Britain might retaliate by taking steps against Iraqi diplomats in London. A Whitehall source said: "We are not going to get involved in tit-for-tat gestures."

Relatives in countries that the embassies in Kuwait are closed by force Iraq might enter them and search for lists of foreign nationals and their addresses, another Whitehall source said. "You can take it that the proper precautions have been taken."

Closing of the embassies would make it more difficult for Britain and America to keep track of how many of their nationals have been rounded up. The Foreign Office put the number of Britons so far taken away at 137, of which 76 were being held in accommodation attached to civilian establishments, such as factories, and 21 at military bases. The whereabouts of the others is unknown.

Margaret Thatcher yesterday described the reported round-up of ten Britons from their homes on Tuesday as scandalous. Tom King, the Israeli defence experts predict an armed clash between the US and Iraq "by the weekend".

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**Gas bill**

paid

**Phone bill**

paid

**Electric**

paid

**Dismissed!**

thank you for calling first direct, colonel denby-harris.

first direct

0800 22 2000



Our men in Dhahran: Air Vice-Marshal "Sandy" Wilson, commander UK forces, and Sir Alan Munro, British ambassador to Saudi Arabia

## Minister may quit in Paris

From ALAN TILLIER IN PARIS

**MICHEL Rocard**, the French prime minister, yesterday gave his defence minister, Jean-Pierre Chevénement, 48 hours to retract or resign over remarks proposing a soft line towards Saddam Hussein at a time when President Mitterrand has placed France squarely in the Anglo-American camp.

M Chevénement told *Le Canard Enchaîné* of a list showing that he was a founder-member of the Franco-Iraqi friendship club in 1985. M Chevénement was education minister at the time, but failed to get government clearance join the club. Another founding member is an extreme right-wing, antisemitic journalist.

The left-wing daily *Libération* said that M Chevénement had made clear his opposition to an American attack against Iraq "in a few days" with perhaps the loss of tens of thousands of lives, before United Nations-led negotiations "could lead the Iraqis to evacuate Kuwait without losing face".

Those statements were embarrassing for M Mitterrand with his new commitment of French ground forces in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, in addition to the seven-ship French fleet now in place off Djibouti.

Perhaps more damaging for M Chevénement was his remarks yesterday by the publication yesterday by the investigative newspaper *Le Monde* that he had assured him that China would not veto a proposed UN resolution that would allow countries with naval forces in the Gulf to enforce trade sanctions, using minimum force.

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**Dan-Air to close its London HQ**

By OUR AIR CORRESPONDENT

DAN-AIR, the troubled charter airline, is to close its London headquarters and move near Gatwick as part of a drive to cut costs.

The airline, the second largest charter operator in Britain with a fleet of 51 aircraft, has been badly affected by the decline in the charter market and spiralling fuel costs. It is cutting the numbers of aircraft in an effort to beat the squeeze on profits affecting the whole industry.

Airtrax, one of Dan-Air's main customers, has announced it is to set up its own airline next summer.

Details, page 19

Shambles and tears as stores reopen

By LIN JENKINS

AS THE three-seater sofa was cased through the door into a waiting room howls of protest went up from the small crowd outside Queensway's largest store.

"How can he have that?" Pearl Windom shouted on the verge of tears. "We've already paid for the things in there." Mrs Windom, a night nurse, was one of many who stood for hours outside the store in Angel Road, Edmonton, north London, in the hope of receiving the goods they had paid for just before the Lowndes Queensway collapse. Having parted with £614 from her savings for a tea unit, Mrs Windom was in no mood to see staff still selling for cash.

"I've been told that if there is a unit here like the one I ordered I can pay cash for the full sum and take it away and then try and claim from their insurers for the money I originally paid out. That means they want me to pay twice - do I really look that silly?" she said before returning to her home at Angel, north London.

Lorna Smith watched in dismay as the two-seater sofa she thought she had paid for went to another cash customer.

Continued on page 18, col 3

**26 are injured in fourth rail crash**

By RONALD FAUX

TWO trains collided head-on near Manchester yesterday injuring 26 people in the fourth serious accident on the British Rail network in only four weeks.

A BR spokesman said: "Judging by the light damage, both drivers must have taken action to stop their trains, and, by the look of it, almost made it."

An internal inquiry will be held by BR on Monday. Its findings will be passed to government investigators.

The spate of accidents this month has fuelled concern over BR's safety record.

A train driver died and 20 people were injured when an empty four-carriage train ran into the back of an InterCity express at Stafford station on August 4.

Three days earlier, a packed commuter train on the wrong line at Reading, Berkshire, ploughed into another train injuring 29 people. On July 20

Continued on page 18, col 6

## Treasure hunter strikes gold in Wiltshire field

By SIMON TAIT  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A 14-INCH ring of twisted gold wire found by a treasure hunter in a Wiltshire field last week could be one of the most significant Bronze Age finds, archaeologists believe. Dennis Chaddock, aged 53, from Trowbridge, who was using a metal detector, found the piece 12m deep in open downland near Warminster.

Clare Conybeare, of the Salisbury Museum, the only expert to have seen the piece so far, has identified the find as a torc, a necklace the quality of which suggests it would have been worn by a late Bronze Age chieftain.

"It is very important, particularly to Wiltshire but also nationally," she said. "It is in extraordinarily fine condition, and a splendid ornament which would have been worn by



The torc: "in fine condition" someone of considerable status. Wiltshire is rich in archaeology, but we have never found a complete torc before."

The gold might have come from Ireland or Wales, and an axe found near by dates the torc to between 1,100-1,000BC. Nick Merriman, the

Museum of London's curator of prehistoric antiquities, said: "It is a very rare find. There have been Iron Age torcs of around 600BC found from time to time, mostly in East Anglia, but nothing like this in recent years. The owner would have been a near contemporary of Tutankhamun, and perhaps in his society as important, but so little is known of the period in Britain. There are no burial mounds from that time, but this may have been a votive offering to a god or buried as part of a funeral ceremony, or it might have been stored."

Auction houses were reluctant to give a valuation without having seen the object, but Fiona Quinn, the antiquities expert for Phillips, said that estimates of £5 million being mentioned seemed absurdly high. "The difficulty is that finds of this sort

are rare and even rarer on the market." A more realistic valuation is likely to be about £100,000.

The torc will now be the subject of a coroner's inquest to determine if it was stored with the intention to recover it, or if it was lost. If it was stored to be recovered later it is treasure trove and belongs to the Crown, with the finder being compensated; otherwise it could be returned to the finder or owner of the land, who is remaining anonymous.

Mr Chaddock, speaking at Salis-

bury police station where the torc is

being held in safekeeping before being taken to the British Museum for examination, said that he was elated.

"It's a great joy to find such a thing

but it belongs to the British heritage."

If it was returned to him, he said, he

would give it to the British Museum.

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## THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

Y WASHINGTON

# Bush calls up reservists for the first time since Vietnam

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush ordered the call-up of tens of thousands of reservists to support the US military deployment in the Gulf, the first such mobilisation for military purposes since the 1968 Tet offensive in Vietnam.

Mr Bush did not specify numbers, but Pentagon officials said they expected an initial call-up of about 40,000 reservists by the end of the month. Most would serve in the US and would be specialists in activities ranging from medicine to cargo handling.

The administration also announced that it would defy an Iraqi order to close its embassy in Kuwait by tomorrow. The State Department said it would seek to evacuate all but the most essential of its 120 diplomats, but joined Britain and a number of other countries in declaring that it had rejected an order which was based on the "false" premise that Kuwait was a part of Iraq.

Iraq, warned on Monday that diplomats remaining in Kuwait after tomorrow would lose their diplomatic immunity. The US has refused to speculate on the action it might take were Baghdad to round up Nathaniel Howell, the ambassador, and his colleagues, but such action would provoke a furious reaction.

It remains to be seen whether Iraq will allow the non-essential US diplomats and their dependents to leave

Glory restored, page 8



Action stations: Able Seamen Fex Parker and Wiggy Bennett going through gun drill on board HMS Battleaxe, patrolling in the central Gulf in temperatures reaching 100F

## UNITED NATIONS

## Security Council divided over UN role

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

THE five permanent members of the Security Council are agreed that force should be used if necessary to enforce sanctions against Iraq, but remained divided when they met yesterday about precisely how the United Nations should oversee naval action against Iraqi shipping.

"Everyone agrees that when and if the time comes, force should be used," a Western diplomat said. "On the principle there is no disagreement. Where there is, it is on the procedures and the timing."

On the table in yesterday's private meeting of the five —

Britain, China, France, the United States and the Soviet Union — was the American draft proposal circulated to all 15 Security Council members on Monday night.

The text calls on states deploying maritime forces to the Gulf "to use such minimum force as may be necessary under the authority of the Security Council", to enforce the UN embargo on Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

The problematic passage deals with the precise role of the United Nations, diplomatic sources said. Paragraph four of the draft "requests the states concerned to co-ordinate their actions in pursuit of the above para-

graphs of this resolution using as appropriate the mechanisms of the Military Staff Committee". The Military Staff Committee is a dormant sub-committee of the Security Council, consisting of the chiefs of staff of the five powers.

The Soviet Union, which proposed a UN naval operation in the Gulf in the first place, has been seeking a large role for the sub-committee, which it chairs this month. But the Western powers, Britain, France and the United States, reluctant to put their warships under UN command, envisage a more limited role for the panel.

Although the Soviet Union

appears to be using its ability to delay adoption of the resolution to win concessions on the form of the UN involvement, the dispute does not appear to jeopardise the basic agreement.

None of the five is pressing for a full UN force under Article 42 of the UN Charter, which allows the Security Council to order military action to enforce sanctions imposed under Article 41. Some half-way house is being sought, described by diplomats as "Article Forty-one-and-a-half".

• Yemen rift: A rift between Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen's president and Abdur Karim al-Eryani, his prime minister,

complicated the country's role in the conflict, according to Western diplomatic sources, who described Mr al-Eryani as pro-Iraqi and Dr al-Eryani as pro-Egyptian.

In one sign of differences between the two, a senior Yemeni official confirmed yesterday that the Aza Zal, an Iraqi tanker docked at Aden, had been ordered to stop unloading oil five hours after it docked at the Red Sea port on Tuesday morning.

The official said the ship had unloaded only "a small part of the shipment" of Iraqi crude, in what oil industry sources described at the time as the first breach of UN sanctions against Iraq.

## CHINA

## Peking 'will not veto' use of force

From CATHERINE SAMPSON  
IN PEKING

KUWAIT'S foreign minister says Chinese leaders have assured him that Peking would not veto a proposed UN resolution allowing enforcement of an embargo against Iraq.

Sheikh Sabah al-Sabah said in Peking yesterday: "If China does not vote for the resolution, it will not vote against it either."

He was speaking after a morning of talks with Li Peng, the prime minister, and Qian Qichen, the foreign minister.

China is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Until now other Security Council members have been unsure what Peking's reaction to the proposal would be. China has opposed Western military intervention in the Gulf, and has repeatedly spoken out against what it sees as American interference in the affairs of other countries.

The sheikh said he was satisfied with Chinese support for the UN sanctions. "I think that the position of the Chinese government is that it will abide by the UN resolution," he said.

During the Iran-Iraq war China was one of the biggest suppliers of arms to both sides. Often its weapons went through third countries, and China never admitted publicly that it was supplying Iraq.

The sheikh also expressed gratitude for China's support of the UN resolution. He will visit Iran and the Soviet Union next to try to secure military support.

A subject close to the Chinese leadership's heart but probably far from that of the Kuwaiti leadership is the Asian Games, due to start here on September 22. Many Middle East countries are scheduled to participate, but a pull has been cast over the event by developments in the Gulf.

Iraq has already said it would still attend, but Sheikh Sabah al-Sabah said Kuwait would not agree to a joint Iraq-Kuwait team. He did not say whether Kuwait would boycott the event.

The sheikh said that his brother, head of the Asian Olympic Committee, had been discussing finance for the Asian Games with China but had died defending the emir's palace. He said the financial agreement his brother had established would stand.

## SOVIET UNION

## Saudi envoy holds talks with Moscow

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, yesterday held talks with Prince Bandar bin Sultan, a Saudi special envoy, on the mountaintop of the UN resolution "and work out specific measures to minimise damage to the Soviet Union".

On the use of force, he said the Soviet Union's position was based on the "necessity to avoid hasty action and show maximum caution in ... the use of force".

Colonel Valentin Ogurcov, a Soviet military specialist, disclosed that arms shipments to Iraq had been stopped in transit and turned back after the invasion of Kuwait. However, he said Soviet military specialists in Iraq were still performing their duties, but no more would be sent. He denied that their presence breached sanctions.

Before he left Moscow, Mr Hammadi was told by Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister, that the Soviet Union intended to fulfil its obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions. He said all foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait should be allowed to leave, "without discrimination".

Moscow yesterday denied it was failing to carry out the Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Iraq and defended itself against the charge that it was delaying a decision to back sanctions with force.

A foreign ministry spokesman quoted from an order,

issued by Mr Ryzhkov, instructing Soviet ministries and other institutions to comply with the requirements of the UN resolution "and work out specific measures to minimise damage to the Soviet Union".

On the use of force, he said the Soviet Union's position was based on the "necessity to avoid hasty action and show maximum caution in ... the use of force".

He said that there was now a better understanding between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union and expressed appreciation for the Soviet position at the UN. He was quoted as saying that the Soviet Union "could play a big role in convincing President Saddam Hussein one way or another that he acted wrongly and should return everything to its rightful place".

Tass later reported that Prince Bandar had brought with him a letter for President Gorbachev from King Fahd. Prince Bandar said he had been pleased with his talks with Mr Shevardnadze, which he described as "serious and constructive".

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## THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: THE MIDDLE EAST

## Palestinian support for Saddam puts Israeli peaceniks out on a limb

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

**TOMORROW** Marion, a middle-aged Israeli and mother of two, will dress in black and stand with other left-wing, pro-peace women of Jerusalem on a square near the prime minister's residence. Since the Palestinian *intifada* began nearly three years ago, the "women in black" of the group Peace Now have been the symbol of Israel's conscience, persistently opposing Israel's occupation of the West Bank, holding placards demanding peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and braving taunts and abuse.

But yesterday Marion and her friends were in a state of uncertainty, even anguish. The Israeli peace camp's assumption that Israel should pave the way for independent Palestine as its neighbour by talking to the PLO is in tatters. The PLO and almost all rank-and-file Palestinians continue to express fervent support for Saddam Hussein three weeks after Baghdad's invasion of

Kuwait. So do many of the normally loyal Israeli Arabs.

The women in black are increasingly confronted, even outnumbered, by right-wing activists dressed in white who brand Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, a murderer in the Saddam mould. They call on Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, to annex the West Bank and expel its Arab inhabitants into an increasingly unstable Jordan.

A member of Israel's right-wing government, Rahamim Zeevi of the far-right Moledet party, this week suggested Israel should imitate President Saddam's tactic of using foreigners as "human shields" and round up Palestinian Arabs, placing them at key installations to deter an Iraqi missile or chemical weapons attack.

Between them, President Saddam and Mr Arafat have dealt a devastating blow to the Israeli left and strengthened the already buoyant right wing. Even after the formation of the exclusively right-wing Shamir government earlier this

summer, Peace Now was still able to mobilise thousands in favour of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. In the new climate, created almost overnight, this would be unthinkable.

This week, Peace Now published an open letter to the pro-PLO Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories, expressing "disappointment at enthusiastic Palestinian support for Saddam Hussein". Palestinians were naturally frustrated, the letter said, by the paralysis of the peace process, the rise of the right in Israel and the end of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO. But, it said, "support for Saddam Hussein is support for the resolution of disputes between nations by force... The path of Saddam Hussein is the path of violence, threats and war".

For Israeli right-wingers, the Gulf confrontation has simply revealed the PLO's true colours. But the left faces the collapse of years of well-meant effort, at risk of imprisonment, reach out to Mr Arafat. Now, in the face of an imminent

external threat, Israelis of all persuasions are closing ranks to defend the very survival of the Jewish state.

Almost everyone in Israel seems to assume that a US-Iraq war will break out within the next two to three weeks, if not earlier, and that Israel will be dragged into it. From Tel Aviv beach cafés to the religious quarters of Jerusalem, the talk is of gas masks: how to obtain them, and when and where the authorities should issue them.

The prospect of war comes as no surprise to a nation which feels constantly that its existence is at stake. But there is mounting nervous tension, and resentment of Arab neighbours who have persuaded themselves that President Saddam is a "liberator". Even some Israeli "peaceniks" find it hypocritical that the same Palestinians who march with pictures of President Saddam, urging the Iraqi leader to "liberate Palestine", want an assurance that Israeli civil defence will issue gas masks to Palestinians as well as Israelis. "You

need a gas mask at the moment just to cope with the poisonous fumes generated by the Palestinian stand on Iraq," said Yossi Said, a normally pro-PLO left-wing MP from the Citizens' Rights Movement.

At the weekend Abba Eban, one of the Labour party's leading doves and a former foreign minister, decided with other Labour figures to suspend all contacts with Faisal Husseini and other pro-PLO leaders in east Jerusalem until they clearly condemned President Saddam. Some dissenting voices in the peace camp point out that "when all this is over", the Palestinian question will remain, and so in all probability will the PLO.

Mr Husseini, for his part, tried to explain to Israelis that the frenzied marchers in West Bank towns were not so much pro-Saddam as anti-American. America, he said, had failed the Palestinians, and President Saddam's attempt to link Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank

had given hope to a people that had nothing to lose. Other Palestinian leaders say the PLO does not condone the acquisition of territory by force but point out that the United States has failed to oust Israel from the West Bank for the past 23 years "because here no oil supplies are at stake".

The bitterness and despair in such Palestinian comments is unmistakable. But yesterday the response of many Israelis was robust. "This proves that a Palestinian state next door to us would be as barbaric as Iraq," a garage owner said. "I would even support the deportation of Palestinians to Jordan."

Left-wing activists put it differently. "Unless the PLO breaks away from Saddam instead of just qualifying its support for him, the Gulf states will stop financing the PLO and Arafat will be thrown out," said one. "I'm very much afraid that if Saddam is defeated, and one way or another he will be, the idea of a state of Palestine will disappear altogether."

## Setbacks unlikely to break Iraqi leader's dream of dominance

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

**SITTING** in his heavily fortified command bunker 100ft beneath a street in the suburbs of Baghdad, President Saddam Hussein continues to indulge his fantasies of dominating the Arab world. Armed with an array of exotic weaponry — ballistic missiles with chemical warheads, super-cannons and, eventually, a nuclear and biological capability — and his rhetoric and propaganda, he has convinced himself that his army is invincible.

But, every day since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait, by three divisions of his trusted Republican Guards, his options have been changing. He has already lost one military option, taking Saudi Arabia before the Americans arrived, and his diplomatic offensive — public tirades against the Americans — has failed to achieve its objective. With the exception of Palestinians on the streets of Jordan and his own people, the Arab world has turned against him.

Even Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, has publicly condemned the taking of foreign hostages and has offered military support if the United Nations were to approve a naval blockade of Iraq. China, the sole member of the UN Security Council considered most likely to veto a naval blockade, has now said it will not stand in the way of military action to enforce sanctions.

Undoubtedly, President Saddam believes one military option still available, an attack on Israel, would bring Arab nations rushing to his side to defeat what he would claim is an Israeli-American

axis against the Arab world. But even this assumption can no longer be relied upon with such conviction. There are some strange alliances being forged in the common cause against President Saddam.

Would Syria, eager to forge better links with the United States, turn its guns and missiles on Israel at the first sign of Israeli military involvement against Iraq? Would Egypt have second thoughts about its build-up of troops and armour in support of Saudi Arabia? President Saddam cannot be sure of the answer.

But, as his options change, it would be wrong to assume that the Iraqi leader's decision to plant foreign nationals at military and industrial installations, and his supposedly unconditional offer, delivered by his foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, to hold talks with the US, are signs of weakness and desperation. They are actions that undermine his increasing isolation, but any setbacks on the diplomatic or military front are unlikely to divert him from his strategic ambitions which stretch beyond the boundaries of the Middle East.

Wearing the uniform of a field marshal, though he was never trained as a soldier, President Saddam will not be listening to his military commanders who dare to proffer advice. None of his senior military officers was appointed for their expertise. As one military expert said: "They are in his command bunker to tell him what he wants to hear."

Assuming his operational bunker has maps listing known American, Saudi and Iraqi from the battlefield. If the prize is to be Kuwait, the Americans will have to mount surgical strikes on at least three main air bases between Basra and the Kuwaiti border to prevent Iraqi fighters from attacking American ground forces moving into Kuwait. Similarly, Iraq would be likely to mount a missile attack on key Saudi bases in an attempt to cause panic, undermine morale and disrupt American and British supply lines.

General Sir Anthony Farrier-Hockley, former commander-in-chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, said that, in an American operation to recapture Kuwait, "The first priority would be to isolate Kuwait by taking out the closest air bases in Iraq which pose the greatest threat."

There are three main air bases, in Basra, at Shusiba to the southwest, at Safwan, in the south, close to the border and with Kuwait. But there are also at least six minor airfields where the runway surfaces were improved by the Iraqis during the war with Iran, at Ar Rumaylah, directly west of Basra, at Shabah West, at Az Zubayr and dotted around Basra.

Leading article, page 9



Traveller's prayer: an Egyptian refugee from Kuwait performing his devotions among queues of cars at the crowded port of Aqaba as he waits for a ferry home



Sister-in-arms: an airwoman of the US 1st Tactical Fighter Wing eating her breakfast surrounded by male comrades at a base in Saudi Arabia

## JORDAN

## King clings to fragile popularity with a diplomatic balancing act

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

**PROOF** of the dilemma now facing King Husain, the most serious of his turbulent 38-year reign, came during two very different meetings on Tuesday in the palace where he has been locked with advisers since returning empty-handed from Kuwait last week.

At the first, arranged at short notice, Tariq Aziz, the chief envoy for President Saddam Hussein, handed him a letter from the Iraqi leader and, according to Jordanian sources, praised him for his almost lone voice of sympathy for the Iraqi cause.

At the second, Taro Nakayama, the Japanese foreign minister, tried to convince him to impose immediate sanctions against Iraq and offered a \$20 million (£10.5 million) sweetener which was rejected. Playing for time, the king is understood to have informed the Japanese that his country would adhere to the UN resolution on a trade embargo with Iraq but, before that, unspecified technical points had to be cleared up.

Jordan has submitted a report to the UN on the grave economic consequences for it of imposing such an embargo, while full-blooded sanctions could provoke such a wave of anger among the passionately pro-Iraqi Jordanian people that the king's fragile throne would be in jeopardy.

The strength of feeling in Jordan was reflected yesterday in a blood-curdling editorial in the semi-official Amman paper *Al-Rai* stating that all Westerners in the Middle East

were now Arab targets. "They are at least as popular with the broad mass of his people as at any time in his reign."

One Western official said: "The sudden burst of popularity is in stark contrast to last year's anti-government riots. But it is brittle and dependent on him showing continued backing for Iraq. If he was suddenly seen to turn the screws on Iraq, the fervour in the streets could just as quickly turn against him."

The Jordanians are desperately anxious to obtain statements that the United Nations Charter will at least permit them to supply a wide range of food and medicines to Baghdad.

A number of Western nations are discreetly advising the United States not to put too much pressure on the king, for fear that any replacement of his measured and diplomatically nimble rule could drag Jordan into war with Israel.

Diplomats who continue to admire the king despite his reverence for President Saddam (whom he recently described as an "Arab patriot") hope that he will be able to finesse the sanctions question. "He could still be used as a vital conciliator," claimed an Arab official.

Veteran Husain-watchers, most of whom have been taken aback by his enthusiasm for Iraq, believe the keys to his stand have been his nostalgia for Arab nationalism and disillusionment with the US.

"Husain is the most complex of all the Arab rulers. He is also a man whose presence in charge is vital if any sort of stability is to be maintained," said one expert. "If he falls, any conflagration in the Gulf could be even more serious than that already predicted."

## Japanese offer cash aid to Cairo

From SARAH GAUCH IN CAIRO

**EGYPT'S** sinking economy, even more burdened by the Gulf crisis, may get a financial boost from Japan after a meeting yesterday between President Mubarak and Taro Nakayama, the Japanese foreign minister.

Although Japan cannot send forces, the government is quite ready to provide assistance to countries which are seriously affected by the current situation," said Makoto Yamanaka, Tokyo's foreign

ministry spokesman. "These measures will include economic assistance."

Japan's 1946 constitution bars it from military involvement outside the country. However, Japan could contribute not only financial aid, but also medical and communications personnel and the use of Japanese mine-sweepers. The package would be unprecedented in scope, a Japanese foreign ministry spokesman said on Tuesday in

Jordan. Egypt, which has a budget deficit of 18 per cent of gross domestic product and 30 to 40 per cent inflation, is being urged by the International Monetary Fund to introduce sweeping economic reforms.

Until Egypt completes its negotiations with the IMF, Japan is unable to contribute to official aid, according to a Japanese economist. So aid would have to be in the form of "emergency assistance".

## Brazilian plea to 'missile workers'

From LOUISE BYRNE  
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

**BRAZIL** has appealed to at least 20 Brazilian "high-technology mercenaries" to halt their work on military projects in Iraq. The engineers are thought to be working on construction of a missile modelled on the Brazilian prototype Piranha, which has a range of three miles and can carry 26lb of explosive.

A spokesman for the Brazilian foreign ministry said: "We cannot stop them from working in Iraq but we can call upon them to halt their work for patriotic reasons."

The engineers are working under the leadership of Brigadier Hugo Piva, a former director of the Aerospace Technology Centre, the research arm of the Brazilian air force. In May, a Brazilian magazine reported that the team with the brigadier had also worked on a Brazilian air force project to produce the Big Piranha, a nuclear-capable missile with a 620-mile range.

Meanwhile, Brazil has denied allegations that it is involved in nuclear arms cooperation with Iraq. It rejects claims that it is developing a nuclear-capable missile which could be sold to Iraq and Libya. However, Brazil has said that it is likely to be reviewing military trade with Iraq, its main arms customer.

The new Brazilian constitution, signed in 1988, prohibits the development of nuclear weapons and the government claims it only sells arms for defensive purposes.

## AQABA

## Torrent of refugees could swamp Egypt

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

**AN ANGRY** and thirsty crowd of several thousand Egyptians surged across the desert highway between Aqaba and the Iraqi border, blocking all traffic and throwing stones at cars and lorries that tried to pass.

"We have just been told we have to wait here 48 hours more before we can get a ferry to Egypt. We have no food and hardly any water," shouted one protester on Sunday. "Where is the Egyptian government? Why are they not preventing? They will die of thirst and malnutrition."

It was the latest outburst of frustration among the unsung victims of the Gulf confrontation. Egyptian refugees who in the next few weeks could number hundreds of thousands. Figures provided in

Jordan yesterday showed there were still 150,000 Egyptians in occupied Kuwait and 1.6 million in Iraq, most wanting to leave.

Many of those travelling for more than four days to reach the outskirts of Aqaba have made the journey in rusty cattle lorries. A senior Aqaba port official said at least one Egyptian had been crushed to death in stampedes to board the ferries provided to transport the exodus to the Sinai port of Nuweiba. It is feared others will die of thirst and malnutrition.

At Nuweiba, the Egyptian ministry of supply has pledged to provide 15,000 light meals a day and free transport to all parts of Egypt. But travellers claimed there was a lack of resources and organisation.

The growing queue of Egyptian refugees is a pathetic side-effect of the Gulf tension. For President Mubarak, the flow of Egyptians struggling to return represents a potential economic and political time-bomb.

With Iraqi intelligence operating with radical Palestinian groups in an attempt to subvert Mr Mubarak's pro-Western regime, the refugee camp could provide a cover for infiltrating agents.

Equally dangerous is the threat posed to Egypt's ailing economy by the arrival of hundreds of thousands of workers without money and with little prospect of finding jobs or homes. Unemployment in Egypt is already estimated at 20 per cent.

The influx is likely to cause

## THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

BRITAIN

# Kinnock endorses Thatcher's moves on Gulf emergency

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND DANIEL TREISMAN

NEIL Kinnock, the Labour leader, yesterday offered the prime minister almost unqualified support for the government's handling of the Gulf emergency. His comments came as Mrs Thatcher condemned as a "scandal" the treatment of British hostages in the Gulf and said thousands of Arabs and Asians were fleeing Iraq in fear of its dictator.

In his first public pronouncement on the military build-up triggered by President Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait, Mr Kinnock's remarks suggested that he and his senior colleagues have learned from the Falklands conflict. Then, under the leadership of Michael Foot, Opposition spokesmen regularly questioned the use of military force to recapture the islands and were undermined by the left wing calling for a truce with Argentina. The result of this hesi-

tancy and internal disarray was an 18-point rise in public support for the Conservatives and an electorally irreversible slump in Labour's standing in opinion polls.

If anything, Mr Kinnock reinforced the bipartisan spirit that has so far marked most domestic political reaction to the pressures the government is applying to the Iraqi leader.

On the British hostages he said that everything that could be done for them was being done. He endorsed the prime minister's refusal to bargain with President Saddam over their fate, and refrained from demanding an immediate recall of parliament. He also supported the government's moves to win a comprehensive United Nations mandate for Western action in the Gulf, questioning only the slow pace at which it had moved to gain international authority for the naval blockade.

Speaking during a visit to

the Canary Wharf development in London's Docklands, Mrs Thatcher said she was "deeply upset" by Iraq's behaviour towards Britons held there. "They are entitled to be there," she said. "Our nationals should be looked after very well indeed. It's a scandal the way they have been treated."

Mr Kinnock, making clear that he saw no advantage in harrying ministers when servicemen had been dispatched to a potential war zone, said: "It's an unprofitable exercise when our forces are engaged, when they are taking defensive action in support of independent and peaceful countries against an aggressor, for us to be looking around for points of difference."

The Labour leader, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, also indicated that, had he been in power, he would have responded in much the same way as Mrs Thatcher.

Like Mrs Thatcher, while sympathising with the "anxiety" of friends and relatives of the 4,500 Britons trapped in Kuwait and Iraq, Mr Kinnock was adamant that no concessions could be made to their captors.

Later, after opening an £18 million window factory and office complex in Braintree, Essex, the prime minister expressed her sympathy for the families of hostages trapped in the Gulf. "They're always in our thoughts in everything we do. This is one reason we are keeping our ambassadors there so that they will do everything possible."

She flatly rejected a claim by an Iraqi envoy in Geneva that "British colonialism" was responsible for tension in the Gulf. "How absolutely absurd. The trouble is Saddam Hussein marched in and invaded another country and took it by force. That is the root of the whole trouble and we must never forget it," she said.

There is a large front-flap pocket and a sleeve patch for locating detector paper which indicates chemical attack.

The American chemical protective outfit is slightly heavier and consists of a charcoal-activated cloth with a nylon/cotton twill outer layer.

But sources in the industry, who are gearing up to double their output to nearly 500,000 a year, fear they may not be able to meet the demand from governments in the Gulf should a decision be taken to protect civilians within range of chemical attack from Iraq.

It was confirmed by the industry that the British government would have to decide who should get them first.

American forces are conducting field trials of the suits and a tacit admission of their superiority over US suits by the US Defence Department is expected to lead to large orders for the Mark 4 version now issued to British servicemen. Some American soldiers are already said to have been equipped with them and a number have the Mark 3 version, but most have American chemical protection outfits.

The three British companies licensed to make the NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) suit for supply to the Ministry of Defence through BAe are: Remploy, of Cricklewood, northwest London, which specially employs disabled people; the Compton Webb Group of Newport, Gwent, which is a subsidiary of Coats Viyella; and Avon Industrial Polymers of Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

The manufacturers, and another five companies which make material for the suits, are believed to be taking on up to 15 per cent more staff or reallocating other employees. Round-the-clock shiftwork is expected in some cases and sub-contractors may be called in to increase production. Some British suits could eventually be made under licence in the United States.

Already the Saudi air force and some key civilians have received 10,000 suits and gas masks, and newspaper advertisements in Saudi Arabia could lead to requests for more.

The Mark 4 suit, which costs up to £200 including the \$10 respirator and accessories, is pressure- and vacuum-packed by the manufacturers to give it an extended shelf life of six years.

In use against chemical attack it provides a high degree of protection for a minimum of 24 hours, though human tolerance of the heat stress it engenders in temperatures over 100°F may not be longer than 30 minutes.

Scientists have criticised the long-term efficacy of the suit in such heat against Iraq's known arsenal of mustard gas which can take a long time to disperse and the nerve gases tabun and sarin. Dr Alastair Hay, a chemical pathologist from Leeds University and chairman of an academic working party on chemical and biological warfare, said: "People will just overheat. You must sweat to cool yourself and if you can't get rid of your moisture — if it doesn't evaporate — your body cannot cool. Your body temperature



Susan Sihaloto, from London, who flew out from Baghdad yesterday, is hugged by her son Jonathan, aged four, on arriving at Amman airport. Passengers said Westerners on the flight wept and sang as they left Iraq

## Britain supplies protective suits

By MICHAEL HORNELL

AMERICAN armed forces are buying British "doom suits" to protect them from chemical attack in the Middle East, it emerged yesterday as mass production of the garment was ordered by the defence ministry in London.

Orders of up to two million from several countries involved in the Gulf confrontation are anticipated by British Aerospace, which has been appointed by the defence ministry as co-ordinating contractors.

But sources in the industry, who are gearing up to double their output to nearly 500,000 a year, fear they may not be able to meet the demand from governments in the Gulf should a decision be taken to protect civilians within range of chemical attack from Iraq.

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Doom suit: a test run for the British-made nuclear, biological and chemical outfit and respirator that will protect troops in the Middle East

## Jesse Jackson seeks TV coup with plan to visit Baghdad

From SUSAN ELLIOTT IN WASHINGTON

WHEREVER there are international television cameras the chances are that Jesse Jackson, the fiery preacher and civil rights leader, is never far behind. The Gulf is no exception. Mr Jackson, hardly a wallflower when it comes to self-promotion, has announced plans to visit Iraq as a journalist in time for the autumn launch of his own syndicated chat-show.

The viewer ratings of Koppel's network soared after he sent back a 50-minute tape of an interview with Iraq's foreign minister.

Despite a frenzy of international telephone calls and attempted string-pulling, only two networks, ABC and CBS, can boast they got crews inside Iraq. Neither got close to President Saddam Hussein, but at least one had the

decency to admit the Iraqi leader had only invited them to export his message to the rest of the world.

Admittedly, ABC's anchorman for *Nightline*, Ted Koppel, beat rival CBS's veteran newshound, Dan Rather, by a day last week in what was held as a significant coup in one of America's most upright industries.

The viewer ratings of Koppel's network soared after he sent back a 50-minute tape of an interview with Iraq's foreign minister.

Rather, who interrupted a holiday in France to cover the confrontation, fought back this week with footage of himself chatting to a handful of Americans among the thousands of foreigners unwillingly trapped in Baghdad and Kuwait.

The two correspondents left somewhat unceremoniously. Koppel was "invited" to leave Iraq last week and is now working from Jordan. Iraqi officials ordered the CBS team to leave yesterday, telling them they had "outstayed their welcome".

This may have assured the pique of those networks which failed to deploy their troops any nearer to Baghdad than Cairo, Amman and other Arab cities during the biggest breaking news story since the US invasion of Panama last December. America's highly competitive television networks ticked at the best of times, but the Gulf hostilities have pushed their rivalry to new heights.

Their chief handicap is a lack of action in the Middle East as most details about

tanks, troops and tactics emerge from Washington. It is unclear whether Mr Jackson will pull off his intended trip. The United States has warned all Americans to avoid travelling there until further notice. Mr Jackson, however, has already found his way into newspaper headlines by claiming that the Bush administration is seeking to thwart his trip. The State Department, citing its travel advice, has said the Democratic politician is free to decide his own plans.

Meanwhile, the executive producer of the forthcoming *Jesse Jackson Show* has said he has "every indication" that Iraqi officials who invited Mr Jackson to Baghdad will allow the civil rights leader to interview President Saddam. This truly would be a stunt to ruffle the egos of America's television新秀. Not even Koppel and Rather saw the leader, whom President Bush describes as a modern Hitler.

Many of Mr Jackson's detractors have viewed his plans as a further example of the politician's desire to maintain a high profile, coming only months after he travelled to South Africa at the time of Nelson Mandela's release. Mr Jackson has responded by saying that "it was not appropriate to go there (Iraq) as a diplomat". Six years ago he went to Syria to help negotiate the release of a US pilot captured by Syrian troops.

Mr Jackson has twice run unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination and is now campaigning for a "shadow" Senate seat formed by the District of Columbia to lobby Congress for statehood for Washington.

A journey to the Gulf should at least guarantee him more attention than he received last week at a news conference he called to urge the government to do more for minorities in its bailout of the nation's building societies. Only one reporter showed up.

## French are 'more comfortable' than Britons and Americans

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

FRENCH civilians in the human shield around Baghdad's nerve centres will be more comfortable than their British and American counterparts, according to Palestinian sources.

Small groups of French have been moved into the houses of senior Iraqi army officers, where, the sources said, they would find a home from home with Perrier and paté — as long as stocks last. For these small mercies, they can thank Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, who interceded on their behalf with President Saddam Hussein, the sources said.

"The government eases everything for Saddam's army to keep them loyal," a

British are reportedly being used as human sandbags around the Iraqi leader's presidential palace and other vital targets, others were carrying on as best they could. Seven Britons employed by Giatr Engineering, of Reading, have been going to work every day, according to Andry Konaris, the wife of one of their Cypriot colleagues.

Her husband has told her by telephone that Baghdad did not appear to be fearful of an imminent American attack. One of her husband's friends who was working at a remote site outside the Iraqi capital heard of the emergency only on Monday. Mrs Konaris said: "He has no English, so I suppose he couldn't understand the radio."

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## WASHINGTON NOTEBOOK by Martin Fletcher

## Envoy on a vain chat-show mission to explain

There is not the slightest doubt who is the single most unpopular man in Washington. He is Mohamed Sadiq al-Mashay, the unctuous Iraqi ambassador who appears on every other chat show to proclaim his country's love of peace and to denounce American belligerence. Dr al-Mashay arrived here from London last autumn, declaring his priority was to court the press and reverse a torrent of unfaltering reports about his country. It was a campaign doomed to failure. He began by "categorically" denying allegations that Iraq had used chemical weapons against its Kurdish population. That ended when President Saddam Hussein himself acknowledged their use.

Iraq was then rumoured in its attempts to buy nuclear trigger devices and steel tubes for a giant gun. It hanged a British journalist. It declared its intention of "burning" half of Israel if attacked. Just before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the US banned the export of advanced industrial furnaces capable of making parts for missiles and nuclear weapons. That provoked this furious press release from the unloved ambassador: "Iraq needs these furnaces to purify, melt and cast metals to be used in producing artificial limbs

for the thousands of unfortunate people who lost limbs during the eight-year war with Iran, and finds it most inhumane to prevent or delay the acquisition of equipment that will be used for their benefit.

The government cannot stress enough how urgent the need is among its physically handicapped, to whom artificial limbs will spell the difference between a hopeless existence and a happy, productive life." Tell that to a Kuwaiti. Washington's latest theory is that the administration arranged the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to solve a Savings and Loan scandal so serious that it was threatening Mr Bush's very presidency. The collapse of the Texas real estate market bankrupted S&Ls (building societies) which had invested in highly speculative development projects in the 1980s. This set off a nationwide chain reaction. The administration is now trying to sell the S&Ls' assets to finance its bailout programme, but succeeding only in flooding the property market and depressing prices still further. The ultimate cost of the bailout is a staggering \$500 billion (£260.4 billion). Now just suppose there was a way of suddenly reviving the oil-based economy of the Lone Star state.

For seriously, the Iraqi invasion almost certainly saved both Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, and the Pentagon budget which he had so poorly defended from congressional attacks that his head was on the block. In fact, his stock has rarely been higher than today. It was he who finally persuaded Saudi Arabia to take the momentous step of requesting US military help. It is he who presided over the biggest military deployment since Vietnam with scarcely a hiccup. He is in many ways a remarkable man. Despite three mild heart attacks and coronary bypass surgery, he has spent the days since the Iraqi invasion jetting furiously between Washington and moderate Arab states. When he met US troops in Saudi Arabia last weekend the temperature was 104°F.

The Pentagon is meanwhile advertising for one particular specialist that it desperately needs to help its troops in Saudi Arabia. The Armed Forces Pest Management Board requires an expert in poisonous desert snakes. As if the threat of Iraqi poison gas is not enough. US troops must also watch out for at least 10 species of dangerous toads and snakes in the Egyptian desert, including the Egyptian cobra, the saw-scaled viper, the desert black snake, the puff adder and the Arabian bull viper.

President Bush, weighed down by the Gulf crisis, has not given up his customary frenetic pursuit of sport during his annual holiday in Kennebunkport, Maine. He has simply condensed

it. At the best of times he plays what his aides call "aerobic golf" — a reference to his habit of charging round courses at breakneck speed, scattering those before him. Last week, with world affairs pressing in on him, he managed 18 holes in one hour and 42 minutes, nine minutes faster than his previous record and half the time it takes most lesser mortals.

Whether he is enjoying his sport this year is another matter. Clearly feeling the strain of events in the Middle East, he snapped at reporters who tried to question him between holes the other day. "I hope you'll understand if I, when I'm recre



# Proposals to harmonise EC speed limits rejected by peers

By RICHARD FORD

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to harmonise speed limits for buses, coaches and goods vehicles throughout the European Community and exempt certain people from wearing seat belts are rejected today by a House of Lords committee.

The peers question whether the European Commission has the power to introduce the measures which would cut motorway speed limits on many commercial vehicles and coaches but slightly increase limits in built up areas.

The report urges the commission to concentrate instead on producing common standards of vehicle construction and similar road traffic signs.

The report says that it fears that "bunching" could increase because of the lower speed limits leading to more

accidents and traffic offences and a rise in transport costs. Lower speed limits on motorways and dual carriageways would increase journey times for the road transport and freight industries and worsen their competitive position relative to other forms of transport. "Furthermore, if the new limits were not widely accepted by drivers they could fall into dispute and this would lead to difficulties in enforcement."

Under the commission's proposal to harmonise speed limits for buses, coaches, and goods vehicles, most British limits would be slightly reduced or left unchanged. The speed limit for light vans on a single carriageway road would be 50mph instead of the present 60mph, on dual carriageways 50mph instead of 70mph and on motorways 62mph rather than 70mph. The limit for buses and coaches on dual carriageways

would be cut from 60mph to 50mph and on motorways from 70mph to 62mph.

The peers also reject a proposed list exempting people from wearing seat belts in cars. It would include children under the age of 12 sitting in the rear of cars, drivers and adult front seat passengers under 1.5 metres, and pregnant women. The committee said: "It would be a serious retrograde step to exempt children from wearing seat belts or other restraints in the front and rear (where fitted) of cars. Nor should drivers and adult front seat passengers under 1.5 metres be excluded. The protection offered by the standard adult seat belt is preferable to no protection at all."

In a separate report, the peers support a plan for a common EC driving licence although they say difficulties in the area of road traffic law would have to be overcome before it could be introduced.

The most important matters to be resolved concerned the endorsement of licences and the disqualification of road traffic offenders and this would involve mutual recognition of sentences and convictions as well as the harmonisation of large parts of EC road traffic laws.

The report by the Lords select committee on European communities also highlights the civil liberties implications of a common EC driving licence which included a photograph of the holder. While the balance of evidence to the committee was that the benefits to road traffic law enforcement outweighed the potential effects on civil liberties, the report says the resemblance to a same identity card might arouse sensitivities in Britain.

Meanwhile, doubts about the speed of the withdrawal of revenue support for British Rail passenger services and the

effect on traffic congestion were expressed yesterday in a report by the Commons transport select committee which called for an overhaul of urban transport systems. The report also criticised the transport department for giving no indication of the projected level of road traffic growth to 2025 for which it planned to cater, and said that imbalances between capital spending on national and local roads would lead to greater congestion in conurbations.

The report urged the department's next annual report to provide a "green audit" on a range of environmental concerns including estimates of carbon dioxide emissions per year from the transport sector, the numbers and proportions of vehicles using leaded and unleaded fuel, and similar figures for vehicles fitted with catalytic converters and cars with low, medium and high

engine capacities. The committee supported a measured expansion and improvement of the national and local road system to ease the worst cases of congestion. "Capital investment needs to overhaul our urban transport systems and to make them effective and efficient," the report said, adding that there was a "renaissance" of public transport which would gather pace as a result of congestion and greater environmental awareness.

*Road Safety in the Community. House of Lords select committee on the European Communities 18th report: £5.85. The Community Driving Licence. House of Lords select committee on the European Communities. 23rd Report: £8.65. The Government's Expenditure Plans for Transport 1990-91 - 1992-93. Transport Committee 2nd report: £13.25. All available from Stationery Office.*

## Main credit agencies face court action over data use

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE four main credit reference agencies are to face legal action brought by the Data Protection Registrar for failing to stop passing information to lenders about individuals who are not seeking credit.

The registrar's office estimates that the credit rating of 100,000 people a year is affected because information on other individuals is supplied in connection with their application. Some are refused credit because family members or previous occupants of the same address have a poor credit record.

The decision to proceed with legal action is likely to be announced early next week by

## Bail bias alleged for ethnic minorities

ETHNIC minority defendants are more likely to be refused bail, according to a report by the Commission for Racial Equality published today (Frances Gibb writes). It says Home Office statistics suggest that disproportionately larger numbers of innocent ethnic minority people may be held in custody than white people.

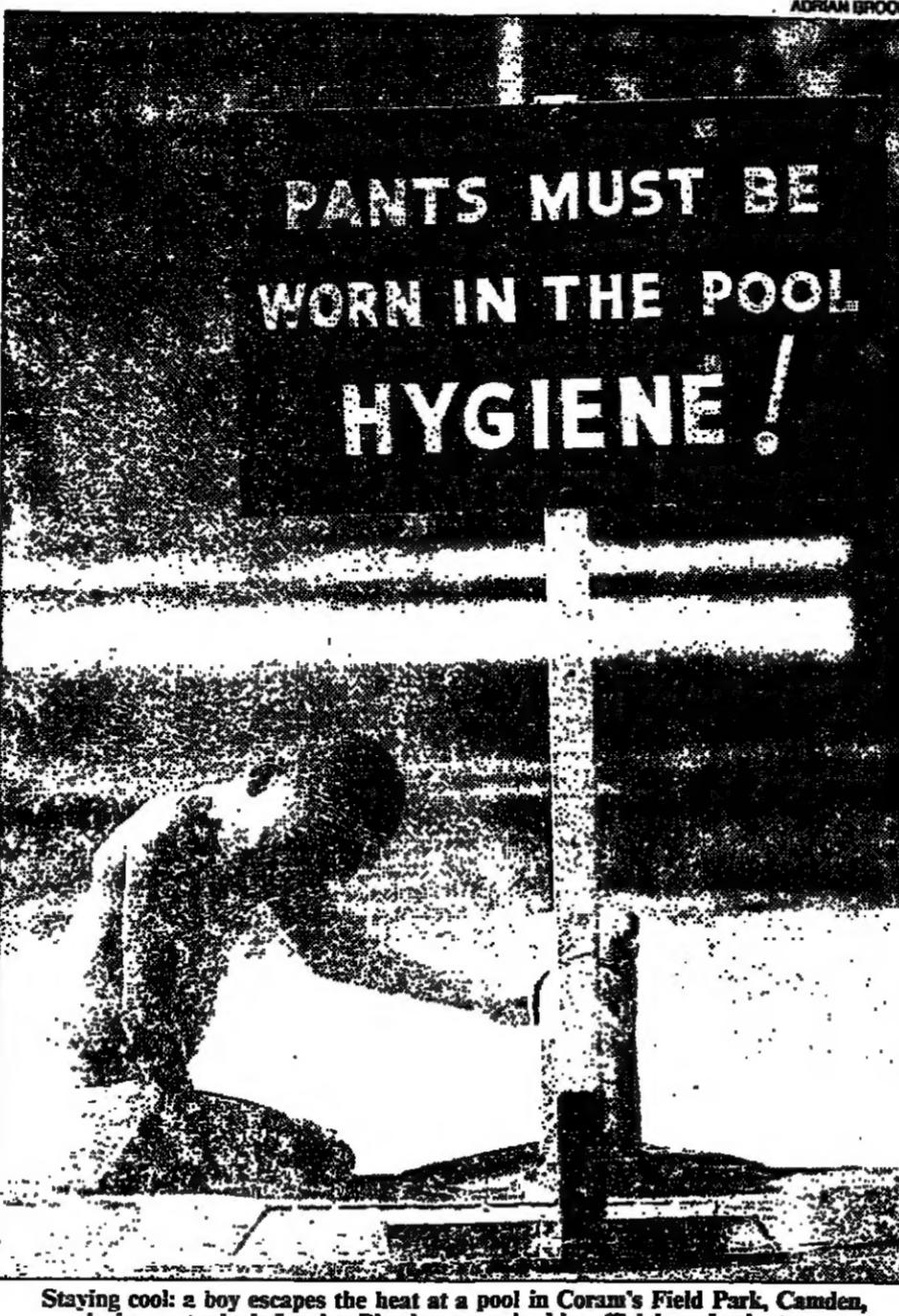
Peter Sanders, chief executive of the commission, said that recent figures indicated that 15.1 per cent of the male prison population and 25.7 per cent of the female prison population were from ethnic minorities, a higher proportion than that of ethnic to whites in the country generally. "These are deeply disturbing statistics," he said.

Part of the problem was that too many people were held in custody when they should more properly be released on bail because they had no fixed abode, and it was feared that they might abscond. "People from ethnic minority communities are disproportionately affected by homelessness and this may account in part for the high rates of remand in custody."

The commission calls for a "rigorous new drive" to ensure ethnic minority defendants stand an equal chance of getting bail. In particular courts should monitor their decisions on whether to grant bail to ensure there is no discrimination. It welcomes a Home Office decision to increase the number of bail hostels, which it says will help to resolve the issue.

There must also be a clear policy of non-discriminatory practice by the courts' crown prosecution service, those running bail information schemes and probation officers when referring defendants to bail hostels, the commission says.

*Bail Hostels and Racial Equality* (Commission for Racial Equality, Elst House, 10-12 Allington Street, London SW1E 5EH, £1)



Staying cool: a boy escapes the heat at a pool in Coram's Field Park, Camden, during yesterday's London Playday, organised by officials and volunteers

## DIY store shatters ageist myths

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER blow in the battle against ageism will be struck tomorrow when Vic Connell and his wife Maggie become the manager and administrative manager of a B&Q DIY store being opened in Exmouth, Devon.

The couple, both aged 59, will not be intimidated by bright young bloods plotting their downfall for all the other 35 employees in the store will have lived for at least half a century. B&Q has moved to counter the threat of a dwindling labour market by encouraging older workers to apply for jobs.

Last year, the company became the first in Britain to apply for a good understanding of DIY and to

also a better awareness of the need for customer service. Bill Whiting, B&Q's marketing director, said that Macclesfield had exploded many myths surrounding older workers who were allegedly over the hill.

"Their communication with customers is better, their turnover and absenteeism less. Their health is also good, which destroys another phantom of the ageism prejudice."

He added: "This was a deliberate business decision as we saw that the labour market was declining. Fortunately, it has given us a surprise bonus and also delighted some workers who thought their age

made it pointless even to apply for a job."

He said one daughter had written to the company saying her mother's life had been changed since getting a job.

Mr Connell, who has worked with his wife for 40 years said:

"Our staff, who have called

themselves the wrinklies, are enthusiastic and caring to go."

Meanwhile this year, a Gallup survey for the Brook Street employment company said

employers were turning their backs on a vast pool of experienced labour by aiming recruitment at workers aged under 35.

Leading article, page 9

## Norwegians back rig strikes

By KERRY GILL

ORGANISERS of the wildcat strikes that have affected the North Sea oil and gas industries were yesterday given the moral support of the Norwegian Oil and Petrochemical Workers' Union (Kerry Gill writes).

Terje Johansen, national secretary of the union, which represents 7,500 men working in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea, said that he was shocked by some reports of safety problems in the UK sector. The Norwegian government encouraged employees to be involved in platform safety issues. "I think it about time you had the same philosophy in Britain," he said in Aberdeen.

Mr Johansen's backing of the unofficial action by the offshore industry liaison committee came as the group accused Chevron, which on

Occidental yesterday said that its Piper B platform would be the first in the UK sector of the North Sea to have freefall lifeboats. The enclosed lifeboats can hold 45 passengers and are launched down specially built rails in two seconds.

The need for freefall lifeboats was highlighted by survivors of the Piper Alpha disaster at the inquiry chaired by Lord Cullen last year.

The Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology survival centre, based in Aberdeen, is to train people to use the lifeboats at its facility near the mouth of the River Tay, Dundee. Initially, there will be a five-year training programme for people working on Piper B. The centre plans to hold at least 75 coxswain and 650 passenger courses over the period.

Mr Saunders said that his haul was probably the only sellable ivory in the world after an international ivory trade ban last year. He researched the wreck for two years and refuses to say where it is.

## Salvaged ivory may fetch £1/4m

By MICHAEL McCARTHY  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE World Wide Fund for Nature appealed to a Devon salvage merchant last night not to sell a ton of ivory, thought to be worth £250,000, which he has brought up from a wreck in the Channel.

Simon Lyster, the fund's international conservation officer, appealed to Fred Saunders not to sell 86 elephants' tusks retrieved from a wreck which sank in a collision 28 miles off Start Point en route from Africa to Liverpool in 1878.

Mr Saunders said that his haul was probably the only sellable ivory in the world after an international ivory trade ban last year. He researched the wreck for two years and refuses to say where it is.

"The ivory is in storage," he said. "It will take six to eight weeks to sort out the legal situation with the receiver of wrecks and then it will be sold." He has received offers of around £250,000 from Japanese and Belgian dealers.

Mr Lyster said:

"It would be extremely detrimental to our efforts to save the African elephant to have a ton of ivory come on the market. We are trying to get people not to buy ivory because it is ivory poaching that has halved the African elephant population over the last ten years." He said he would be writing to Mr Saunders urging him not to

## GCSE exam results

GCSE results are published today and the table below gives a provisional breakdown of the national criteria subjects. Entries for all GCSE examinations was down by almost 8 per cent but the 4,245,147 entries in national criteria subjects represented a much smaller drop. Pass rates for the top three grades were well up on last year.

**Joint council for the GCSE examinations 1990**  
Provisional results statistics in national criteria subjects  
(Provisional results statistics for 1989 in brackets)

Number	% of candidates gaining grade						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	
Art/Design	21,196	12.3	14.6	21.5	18.4	15.7	10.8
(22,424)	(11.2)	(12.3)	(19.2)	(16.0)	(12.0)	(6.9)	
Bus Studies	55,177	4.2	10.3	20.3	16.7	10.0	4.5
(58,957)	(5.7)	(12.0)	(24.8)	(21.9)	(17.1)	(7.1)	
Latin	14,254	5.1	22.1	23.5	7.5	3.5	1.1
(15,778)	(4.7)	(23.7)	(14.2)	(7.4)	(8.9)	(2.0)	
Greek	1,222	0.2	21.5	10.2	2.5	1.1	0.4
(1,101)	(0.2)	(22.9)	(8.0)	(4.5)	(1.7)	(0.5)	
Class Civil	6,045	2.2	22.1	22.8	17.3	8.3	5.2
(6,089)	(1.7)	(25.0)	(23.1)	(17.1)	(6.1)	(4.7)	
Comp Studies	65,485	8.0	13.3	20.3	17.1	11.8	8.1
(61,379)	(6.9)	(13.6)	(19.0)	(17.4)	(10.9)	(6.0)	
CDT	158,246	9.0	12.6	17.5	18.3	18.1	13.6
(158,832)	(8.6)	(12.8)	(17.9)	(18.1)	(18.4)	(7.1)	
Economics	26,168	11.2	18.0	23.1	18.7	13.9	9.0
(25,683)	(10.1)	(17.6)	(23.0)	(17.4)	(14.0)	(4.9)	
English	16,000	16.8	28.8	22.2	14.7	7.8	2.4
(15,922)	(7.9)	(22.9)	(23.0)	(16.3)	(5.1)	(2.0)	
English Lit	423,683	11.5	12.2	20.2	13.3	5.2	1.8
(399,329)	(10.7)	(19.2)	(27.0)	(17.7)	(13.7)	(0.5)	
Geography	145,133	8.6	12.7	19.5	20.3	18.7	12.8
(174,070)	(5.7)	(10.7)	(20.0)	(18.0)	(12.5)	(7.1)	
History	273,824	11.4	15.4	19.8	18.7	16.0	10.5
(276,740)	(10.2)	(14.8)	(20.1)	(18.9)	(15.9)	(7.1)	
Maths	219,922	12.1	17.0	20.2	18.7	13.9	10.5
(222,476)	(12.0)	(18.5)	(17.9)	(14.1)	(10.7)	(5.7)	
French	270,243	18.3	14.3	15.1	17.1	14.3	12.1
(262,989)	(15.5)	(15.8)	(17.5)	(14.4)	(11.2)	(4.2)	
German	22,721	24.5	17.3	17.3	16.2	8.0	3.5
(27,067)	(22.7)	(22.7)	(17.3)	(17.3)	(11.2)	(4.2)	
Spanish	22,283	28.3	17.9	15.0	18.3	8.8	5.8
(22,383)	(27.4)	(17.5)	(14.9)	(17.2)	(12.3)	(4.3)	
Music	60,881	7.2	9.3	23.7	17.2	14.0	8.8
(65,951)	(6.4)	(9.2)	(22.6)	(17.5)			

# Rights that go awry

Alan Ryan

Like most moderately liberal people of my age, I grew up with a simple, attractive picture of the British constitution. It was happily nowhere written down. Happily, because everything depended on the good sense of politicians and the national genius for compromise. The 18th century had settled that Britain was governed by the rule of law, so we could all do whatever the law did not forbid. And although Parliament could in theory make laws about anything — even declaring it a felony to have red hair or an Irish surname — it could not happen in practice.

Doubts about the glories of the unwritten constitution were met with Mr Podsnap's rebuff: foreigners had written constitutions and see what a mess their politics were. The Soviet Union's 1936 constitution handed out all sorts of freedoms that the KGB would kill people for trying to exercise. The decolonised Third World was littered with torn-up constitutions guaranteeing free speech, free elections, an independent judiciary, and all the freedoms the British had always enjoyed.

The moral was obvious. Countries got as much freedom as the public and their leaders could hang on to. Liberal societies would guarantee themselves the kind of freedom prescribed in the US Bill of Rights or the European Convention on Human Rights. In illiberal societies, politicians would ignore people's written rights, courts would side with politicians, or the rules would be changed.

Over the past decade this has become less and less persuasive. The old British complacency may never have been justified. Today it is clearly quite unjustified. It is embarrassing to say the least that Britain holds the record for cases brought against its government in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and the record of adverse judgments there. Worse than this has been the erosion of the familiar Bill of Rights liberties. The 1989 Official Secrets Act subverts the freedom of the press in important cases; police action during the miners' strike was a denial of freedom of assembly, and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984 eroded freedoms of the person.

The *Spycatcher* trials looked like defeat for the government, but the Law Lords conceded the newspapers' rights to publish only because the book was so well-known that no further damage would be done by publication in Britain. The contrast with the United States since 1971, when *The New York Times* resoundingly won the right to publish Pentagon papers exposing the follies and deceptions of the men who embroiled America in Vietnam, could not be greater.

Cases like this make it necessary to press for a local bill of rights — preferably by incorporating the European Convention on Human

...and moreover

## CLEMENT FREUD

Only parts of our carpet

were threadbare; nearly 40sq ft under the bed was in pristine condition, untried by human foot. And around the walls there was a lot of good stuff, thick pile, spring to the step. In the spare room (where I now have a treadmill and black-and-white television set enabling me to walk for 25 minutes at just over four miles an hour and watch Mr Mosimann doing *la cuisine naturelle*, which last week entailed steaming an egg on a plate with no directions on how to prize it off), the carpet is what the trade would call "new" but for a stain where Emma split mulligatawny soup while working on her A-levels. If I were in second-hand carpets, I would concentrate on those that had adorned spare rooms in flats of ungregarious people whose children have left home.

Where the carpet was poor was under the dining table, beneath my desk and on the stairs, especially on the stairs, so I rang my carpet man who had fitted it only 11 years ago, told him that I could be in need of some replacement, certainly quite a bit of repositioning. We made an appointment for him to come and advise, and by the time he arrived I had worked out that around 55 per cent would have to go — probably get snapped up by a first-time home buyer at not much less than I paid for it in 1979. Carpet man began with some bad news: the carpet that we had was a discontinued line. Ours was sort of beige, with dark beige and brown streaks; the nearest he could get was oatmeal with hazelnut-coloured splashes.

Could we do the top floor by piecing together the good carpet from all over the flat — and have the floor below covered in the new? He said no. Was there, I asked, a journal in which we could advertise for the discontinued carpet — surely still stocked in some country warehouse? He thought not.

Might he put me in touch with a merchant who would make a decent offer for all my discontinued carpeting if I replaced it? My carpet man had no knowledge of such people's existence: better carpet than mine is apparently dumped on

London pavements each week.

When he left, having re-measured, he promised to ring me with a quote the following day. He did. It was a blow. I waited an hour and rang back, accepting. He said he would not charge for laying it, offered a 5 per cent discount for payment within a fortnight. I told him that he should charge me for laying it; I would be uneasy at the thought of his penury as a consequence of selling me a new carpet. He said he never charged for laying; it was included in the price. I said all right then, agreed to go away for two days while his men fitted it, and promised to leave the place in a suitable state.

Until the weekend I had not considered the mechanics of preparing an apartment for carpeting. In my bedroom there is a huge bed, one dressing and two bedside tables, a tallboy, some chairs and a cupboard. If I put all those into the hall, what to do with the hat-stand, bookcases and wine racks? There was no place for them in the sitting room, which has easy chairs, occasional tables, TV, VCR and Matthew's old music-centre. The only uncarpeted room is the kitchen; the kitchen is full.

In the end I decided to leave everything where it was, filled the refrigerator with Löwenbrau lager for the carpet men, and when they arrived on Monday I apologised for not having done more, gave them the spare keys to the flat and left the country.

I returned to Wimpole Street on Wednesday. There is an air of stiffness about the apartment, of dust that has come up and not seriously settled down, rather like a Queensway warehouse, only without the SALE notices on the window. But things are in place, more or less where I had left them; the TV has been moved a shade closer to the window, a large pot containing a gargantuan mother-in-law's tongue was on the staircase and is now in my study, and I think the dining table used to be centred beneath the Papas drawing of Cork. I shall move it back.

What worries me most is that the new carpet is exactly the same as the old carpet: beige, with dark beige and brown streaks.

Martin Fletcher on American pride in confronting Saddam — and disillusion with all but Britain

# Glory restored, but what of the cost?

Washington

**A**s it stands on the brink of war with Iraq, the US has put aside the malaise and self-doubt of past months, and is grimly proud still to be the world's policeman. President Bush is enjoying some of the highest poll ratings of any president since Kennedy outpaced the Soviets during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. The Pentagon boasts about a 7,000-mile movement of troops and equipment bigger than the Berlin airlift — almost 500,000 tons to date, equivalent, it is said, to moving the city of Jefferson, Missouri (population 36,000), down to the last car and a hamburger.

"All the talk about Japan or Germany being the new number one has faded quickly. The Iraq crisis shows that the US is the truly superpower," declares *The Wall Street Journal*. "The obituaries were premature," proclaims *The New York Times*. "There is still one superpower, and it is the US. Washington is not the backwater that it seemed to some when the action was all in the streets of Prague or at the Berlin Wall."

The strength and value of the Anglo-American special relationship has also been reaffirmed, and not merely because Britain was the first to back the US militarily. Mr Bush, whose attitude to Mrs Thatcher was noticeably distant compared with Ronald Reagan's, now appears incapable of mentioning her without an effusion of praise. "Thank God for allies and friends like Margaret Thatcher when the going gets tough," he declared on Monday.

*The New Republic*, mouthpiece of liberal Democratic opinion, records that "Thatcher's influence was critical" in the immediate aftermath of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Mr Bush flew to Aspen, Colorado, that day not to fulfil a speaking engagement, but to consult her.

"Thatcher laid out precisely what Bush decided for himself the next day," the magazine reported. A Bush aide who attended the meeting said: "She was a big influence on the basic decision he had to make: what are the US and Western interests in the Gulf, are they long-term or short-term, and are they worth defending? She told

Bush they were lowering long-term and must be aggressively defended." The prime minister, he said, "never flinched".

In contrast to praise for Britain's support there has been a barely-concealed dismay at the weakness of other industrialised nations. "This crisis really exposed the hollowness of European pretensions," Bernard Lewis, a Princeton University historian, told *The Washington Post*. There is growing resentment at the "free ride" of Japan and West Germany, America's principal economic rivals. If the American military effort succeeds, they will enjoy reasonably priced oil having borne only a fraction of the US burden.

And burden it will be. Even before the Iraqis invaded Kuwait and the US build-up began, the US economy was on the verge of recession and grievously handicapped by a huge budget deficit. Now the dollar is falling fast. So is the confidence of investors.

Some officials now predict that the military costs and the economic slowdown could result in the largest budget deficit in US history, between \$250 billion and

\$300 billion. The US could soon be in an uncomfortable economic position in which, for the first time, output will fall at a time when its budget deficit is stuck at around one twentieth of GNP.

Another shadow looms. For the present the administration is heartened by the way things are going. Despite United Nations' impasse over enforcing the trade embargo, international unity is holding up better than Washington dared hope. So too is domestic support, with polls showing 70-80 per cent public backing, though the congressional recess has meant almost no political debate.

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# Renewed township fighting claims another 37 victims

From REUTER IN VOSLOORUS, SOUTH AFRICA

FACTIONAL war resumed with new ferocity in South Africa yesterday after the collapse of peace moves brought a night of terror to Johannesburg's battered townships.

Black mobs threw petrol bombs and bricks at peace-keeping security forces in townships around the city as rival factions overnight shot, stabbed or burnt to death at least 37 people, including a baby boy.

Police said 444 people had been killed and more than a thousand wounded in ten days of battles between migrant workers supporting Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Zulu-based Inkatha movement and township residents who in the

main support the African National Congress, whose deputy president is Nelson Mandela.

"They come to kill us," said a club-wielding Zulu migrant worker in Vosloorus, where 13 blood-covered bodies lay still smouldering around a migrant workers' hostel.

Vosloorus residents supporting the ANC were furious when it was suggested to them that Mr Mandela should hold peace talks with Chief Buthelezi.

"Mandela must not talk.

We must bulldoze the hos-

ts," one said.

Police blanketed parts of Kagiso township in tear gas as black hordes seeking out migrant workers rampaged through streets strewn with rocks. One mob dragged a policeman from his car and stoned him before being chased off by riot police.

Residents reported tensions

extremely high in Daveyton, Kyahele, Tembisa, Tokosa and Soweto, the largest black township where 115 people have been killed so far in the fighting.

Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi face a growing chorus of demands for talks to end the war, convened in a statement this week by the Organisation of African Unity.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town cut short a trip to Canada to try to help end the fighting. "I am a pastor and I have to be with the people," he said at Jan Smuts airport outside Johannesburg. He said any meeting between Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi would have to be well prepared.

The fighting marks the

spread of the conflict between Zulu Inkatha supporters and those who support the ANC. It has cost more than 4,000 lives in Natal in the past four years.

Chief Buthelezi and Bantu Holomisa, a Mandela ally, appealed for peace in a joint statement on Tuesday after talks with senior government ministers. Within hours Chief Buthelezi was blaming the ANC for the fighting while Mr Holomisa, military leader of the Xhosa tribal homeland of Transkei, blamed Inkatha and "right-wing police".

Chief Buthelezi said in a statement on Tuesday: "The ANC must admit there is an actor called Inkatha... There must be immediate, instant, hot-line communication between all black leaders so that all of them can condemn killing talk." Later he told reporters that although he was a man of peace "a warrior's blood flows in my veins".

The South African Red Cross said more than six hundred refugees daily fled the fighting around their township homes and sought shelter in churches and community centres. The local Red Cross was co-ordinating with the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide blankets and food, a spokesman said.

A teacher in Soweto's Pinetown area said: "It's very, very uneasy. There's a strong feeling in the community just to attack the hostels and get the Zulus out of here."

"I look in my children's eyes and I see bewilderment. We think this fighting is going to be long term. Not weeks, or months, but years."



On the frontline: Vosloorus township residents, supporters of the ANC, on the lookout for members of the rival Inkatha movement yesterday

## Lebanese power share amendment

Beirut — The Lebanese parliament has amended the constitution to ensure a greater share of power to the country's growing Muslim community and defuse the civil strife (A Correspondent writes).

The parliament, convening with 51 MPs, ratified a series of decrees aimed at restoring peace after 16 years' civil war, including enlarging the chamber from 99 to 108 deputies, with equal numbers of Muslims and Christians.

### Ceasefire talks

Freetown — The West African peacekeeping force for Liberia delayed its departure from Sierra Leone pending the outcome of negotiations between the Economic Community of West African States and representatives of the rebel National Patriotic Front on a civil war ceasefire. (Reuters)

### Rebels bombed

Colombo — Air force planes bombed Tamil Tiger rebel bunkers in an apparent prelude to a big assault in northern Sri Lanka. Two army battalions numbering up to 2,000 men began moving out of their camps. (Reuters)

### Fire danger

Marseilles — About 5,000 residents and tourists were evacuated as forest fires raged along the French Mediterranean coast, firemen said. Ten homes and a camping ground were burnt as flames swept the Calanques hills and reached the suburbs of Marseilles. Fires extended 12 miles between Bormes-les-Mimosas and St-Tropez. (Reuters)

### Orders to shoot

Delhi — The Indian army has been told to shoot curfew-breakers on sight in the northeastern state of Nagaland, where more than 50 people have died in clashes between tribesmen with head-hunting traditions. (Reuters)

### Korea arrests

Seoul — South Korea announced that 48 people had been arrested, including 10 soldiers, for attempting to topple the government and create a socialist state. The National Police Headquarters said that the 48 had formed an organisation called the Revolutionary Working Class Fighters' Federation. (Reuters)

## Moscow braced for Lithuania border protest

From REUTER IN MOSCOW

A SOVIET KGB commander said yesterday he had moved extra troops and armoured cars to Lithuania's border with Poland to deal with a planned mass drive across the frontier by Lithuanian nationalists.

Lithuania's ruling Sajudis movement, pressing for complete independence from Moscow, has called on Lithuanians to gather at a camp near the Lazzajai border point today and march into Poland in protest against travel restrictions. Activists are also planning to cross from the Polish side.

"Sajudis is trying to take control of the state border," Lieutenant-General Valentin Gaponenko, commander of the Baltic border region, said. "We have reinforced the border guard and deployed extra equipment, including armoured cars."

Lithuania formally declared independence on March 11, insisting it was forced to join the Soviet Union in 1940.

Sajudis called the action to demonstrate against continued control by the KGB security forces of Lithuania's borders, airports and main seaport, Klaipeda. It also marks 51 years since the secret Soviet-German pact that ended the republic's independence. "The crossing

Supporters were due to begin gathering in tents near the crossing point on Tuesday and yesterday. But a Lithuanian journalist said from Vilnius that heavy rain had kept people away so far.

General Gennadi Bolash, the deputy chief of KGB border forces, was quoted by Tass as saying he would do everything possible to avoid a repetition of scenes on the Soviet Union's southern border with Iran earlier this year.

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the deputy chief of KGB border forces, was quoted by Tass as saying he would do

everything possible to avoid a

repetition of scenes on the

Soviet Union's southern

border with Iran earlier this year.

Those swine, they kept it all from

us, we weren't supposed to see it," was

the next most popular reaction of the

60-odd participants, who spent four

weeks in May convincing Lintas that

"brand literacy" was too much to

hope for. Jürgen Stolte, conducting

the study as head of strategic planning

and research at Lintas Hamburg, said:

## Striking a blow for 'keep-fit' lifestyle

From SAM KILEY  
IN LOS ANGELES

AMERICANS are daily treated to give up smoking, keep fit, take more exercise and eat less — but the fashions are striking back with their own mini-Olympics.

Now in its fourth year the annual Short and Fat Guys' Road Race attracts men of girth from all over the United States and Canada to the hamlet of Crooked River Ranch in Oregon. Competitors "run" the one-mile downhill course from Eyeball Hill to the Sandbagger Saloon and are permitted to be "very liberal about the rules".

Bob Ward, aged 72, the event's organiser, explained that, as race steward, he is laid-back about the event. "Anyone under seven foot is short and fat — provided their waist measurement is four and a half inches more than their inseam (inside-leg measurement). If it is not we just cut their pants off and make them shorter."

The ratio is closely monitored, he said, by the women members of the International Finscan Checkers' Guild who, along with the ethics committee, also ensure that all competitors pull into the compulsory halfway pit-stop where beer and hot buttered sweetcorn is served. They also ensure that all "runners" cross the finishing line at the same time on Saturday morning.

Some forty men are expected to take part in the event. They can make it to the bottom of the hill however they wish. Large numbers in the past have sat in armchairs in the back of pick-up trucks driven by their wives. More athletic competitors are pushed in wheelbarrows or hitch piggy-back rides. Others roll down the gentle incline on a skateboard. But they must all begin and end the race under their own steam.

"We like to see them all cross the finishing line in one impressive, perspiring glob," said Mr Ward, who gives all those who complete the course a glass of beer and a twinkie, a chocolate and cream bun with almost no natural ingredients. Because of a skimpy budget all contestants have the same race number, 102, which keeps the printing bill to a minimum.

"We're tired of looking at tall, skinny, well-muscled guys doing all the sports on TV. It is time to celebrate the short fat man and his contribution to history. Churchill was short and fat. So was Attila the Hun. Genghis Khan did very well, and not a lot of people know that Genghis means short and fat in Mongolian."

## Bhutto's foe appointed to head resurgent intelligence agency

From ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

THE caretaker government in Pakistan has appointed Major-General Asad Durrani, who was accused by the deposed prime minister Benazir Bhutto as the man who plotted her overthrow, as the head of the powerful inter-services intelligence agency.

General Durrani, who is a former head of military intelligence, has replaced General Shamsur Rehman Kalu, who has retired. His appointment reassesses the army's control over the agency, which not only ran the covert operation in Afghanistan, but was used by the late president, General Zia ul-Haq, to curb political opposition.

While she was in power, Miss Bhutto made substantial changes in the inter-services intelligence agency, which she described as a "state within a state". She sacked General Hamid Gul, the high profile pro-Zia head of the agency, in May last year, and appointed a retired army officer in his place.

Her interference was resisted by the military high command, which saw it as an attempt to split the agency from the army. According to a senior army general, the intelligence agency was an extension of the army, created to work as a clandestine security organisation, and Miss Bhutto's action was aimed at putting it under civilian control. The issue remained a focus of conflict between Miss Bhutto and the army, and contributed to her downfall.

The inter-services intelligence agency may now be used again as a political instrument, particularly against Miss Bhutto. Changes have also been made in the civilian Intelligence Bureau, and Bhutto appointees have been dismissed. The deputy director, Masood Sharif, was arrested by the army soon after Miss Bhutto's dismissal on August 6.

Meanwhile, the interim government has announced it is setting up special tribunals to try members of the dissolved National Assembly accused of corruption. The tribunal, headed by high court judges, will have sweeping

powers to disqualify any MP found guilty from taking part in the forthcoming elections.

Miss Bhutto has refused to appear before a special court. She said that it was a conspiracy to keep her and other leaders of her party from taking part in the elections.

Miss Bhutto was received by huge crowds when she arrived in Lahore earlier this week as a part of her countrywide tour. She accused the caretaker government of intimidating her party. She is expected to meet General Aslam Beg, the chief of army staff, on August 28.

A Peshawar high court bench is to hear a constitutional petition against the dismissal of Miss Bhutto's government and dissolution of the National Assembly by the president. The petition has been filed by Ifukhar Gulani, the law minister in Miss Bhutto's government.

• **Hijackers' trial:** The 11 Russians who hijacked an Aeroflot jet and surrendered to Pakistani authorities on Monday will be tried by the local court. They will be charged with hijacking and possession of illegal arms. The maximum sentence for hijacking under Pakistani law is death.

According to a report, the 11 hijackers, who came from Yekaterinburg, Russia, appeared in northern Siberia, appeared before magistrates on Tuesday. Pakistan earlier denied that the hijackers would be extradited to the Soviet Union. Under Pakistani law the hijackers can only be tried locally.

## Pressure grows for Bhutan freedom

From A CORRESPONDENT  
IN KATHMANDU

DRAWING inspiration from the democratic events in Eastern Europe and the success of the pro-democracy movement in neighbouring Nepal, the opposition to King Jigme Singye Wangchuk's government in Bhutan is increasingly demanding democracy.

The exiled Bhutan People's Party announced in Kathmandu yesterday it was calling for demonstrations beginning on August 26 against the "despotic" regime, demanding freedom, democracy and human rights. The party said the regime had suppressed the people and blatantly violated human rights.

The party submitted a memorandum to the king on July 2 demanding democracy, but the government in Thimpu, the capital, seems determined not to give in to the demands. The King was recently quoted as saying that a pro-democracy movement would not constitute a threat to his government as had happened in Nepal, where King Birendra bowed to violent protests last April and restored the multi-party system after 30 years of non-party politics.

The Bhutanese government cites political reform such as the existence of a National Assembly and a National

minister, believed to regard Mr Jiang as an arch-rival. The two usually try to upstage each other during media appearances. Observers wondered why the Communist party leader had been chosen to light the flame when the Asian Games have little to do with the party. Why, moreover, would Mr Li choose to absent at such a high-profile event.

In the run-up to the Asian Games the leadership is trying desperately to turn a face of stability and unity to the world, and to hide its factionalism. As during the Cultural Revolution, it is only things like leadership line-ups at yesterday's ceremony which offer clues on who is up and who down. The mass killing on June 4 last year and recent political and economic stagnation have harmed Mr Deng's reputation. The choice of Peking to hold the Asian Games next month is seen as one of his biggest achievements, a diplomatic coup aimed at restoring Peking's tarnished image.

The Chinese leadership has talked of little but the Asian Games, which open on September 22, and the torch-lighting ceremony was seen as the climax of months of frenzied building of sports facilities and scraping together of funds. Yesterday's ceremony was a strange spectacle, carried out with an air of religious reverence in front of a giant blow-up panda which was inelegantly deflated as soon as the event was over. Thousands of carrier pigeons were released as messengers of peace, and a military band played up-beat music. But there were spontaneous smiles among the carefully vetted audience, who had been issued with scarves and bunches of flowers to wave mechanically as athletes carried torches from the square, and supposedly towards the four corners of China.

Veteran hardliners President Yang Shangkun and Wang Chen, the vice-president, were not at the ceremony, suggesting that they might have been celebrating Mr Deng's birthday with him in private. Mr Deng is officially retired, sometimes vanishing for months and then reappearing to chuckle at reports that he is dead.

Most notable for his absence from yesterday's ceremony was Li Peng, the prime

minister, believed to regard

Mr Jiang as an arch-rival. The two usually try to upstage each other during media appearances. Observers wondered why the Communist party leader had been chosen to light the flame when the Asian Games have little to do with the party. Why, moreover, would Mr Li choose to absent at such a high-profile event.

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As a result of its research Lintas has decided it must support television and radio advertising with printed material on what a product is for. It will also make its commercials longer but less frequent, because of unanimous complaints from East Germans about "overkill".

"They haven't developed the Western immune system to advertising. They listen carefully to everything," advertisements. "They can't see what

"Can't you think up anything new? I'm always hearing the same thing over and over again on the radio."

• **SCHWERIN:** East German police said yesterday that they were investigating the murder of a Soviet soldier shot in the chest with a Kalashnikov sub-machinegun while on guard duty last week. The murder of Oleg Kosbar, aged 19, at Perleberg in the north of the country, appeared to be the latest in a series of shootings involving Soviet soldiers based in East Germany.

A West German radio station quoted Soviet officers in Perleberg on Tuesday as saying that two other soldiers had been shot dead in the south this month. Shots had also been fired three times at guard posts, but nobody was hit, it said.

The murder squad in Schwerin, near Perleberg, said it had been called in to investigate the Kosbar case even though the shooting was inside a Soviet military base.

The state-run newspaper *Kuensel*, the only legal publication in the small Himalayan kingdom, recently described pro-democracy demands as "anti-national and seditious".

Nepalese settlers, who are leading the demands for democracy, form about 45 per cent of Bhutan's population of 1.3 million. The Bhutan People's Party says that it plans to achieve its goals through non-violence but warns that the government might try to suppress the movement by force.

Influential sections of the Nepalese press in



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## LOGIC OF WAR

For the first time since the Tet offensive in 1968, American reserves have been recalled to active military service. Technically, the United States is not yet on a war footing. It is applying diplomatic pressure backed by military enforcement of sanctions. But there can be little doubt that if defeating President Saddam Hussein should require troops, domestic and international support has rallied behind the American leadership to a degree which might not, as weeks turned to months, be sustained. The temptation is growing to seize this "window of opportunity".

Does this validate President Mitterrand's assertion on Tuesday that, from the first minute of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the world entered into "the logic of war", a progression from which it will be difficult to escape "without renouncing the fundamental objective of the defence of law"?

The "logic of war" is a powerful phrase, recalling the sense of inevitability that preceded the first world war, the role of such inflexible factors as the railway timetable in the mobilisations that made conflict impossible to avoid. In the handling of any danger as grave as that with which Iraq has presented the world, the time may come when calculations of military advantage weigh more heavily in decisions than the necessarily imprecise assessments of diplomacy, and military precautions against bloodshed become instead preparations for the shedding of blood.

The question is whether that stage has been reached. Is there yet more room for compromise, pragmatism and even the unexpected than are dreamed of in Cartesian philosophy? Should not the rest of the world be prepared still to talk to Saddam Hussein? President Mitterrand, who for all his cultivation of the Cartesian spirit and statesmanlike aloofness is as shrewd a pragmatist as has ever occupied the Elysée, is not alone in believing that the room for diplomatic compromise has vanished. Iraq is clearly obliged under international law, reinforced by UN resolutions, to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and release all foreign civilians.

The contention that if the world wants Kuwait to be set free it should talk to its jailer would be stronger had not Saddam proved, with his solemn promises not to invade

Kuwait hours before his forces struck, that his word is worth nothing whatever. In that sense the Americans have merely stated the obvious in rejecting Tuesday's offer of direct talks "without preconditions" by Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, on the ground that there is nothing to talk about.

How then to effect an Iraqi surrender before Western publics weary of medieval siege, and Iraqi propaganda erodes the position of Arab leaders with their publics? Pragmatism has limits, even in the Arab world: Jordanian and Palestinian mediation (based on such ideas as incomplete withdrawal by Iraq and partial restoration of the al-Sabah family under a different head of state) cannot be treated as serious. Any such deal would reward Iraq's aggression. Pragmatism might yet ally with the unexpected, as Iraq's military commanders weigh the mounting odds against them, to attempt another coup against Saddam, but there can be no guarantee of that, or of their success. Short of Saddam's overthrow, he must either be forced back, or change his mind and withdraw voluntarily.

Today, that appears impossible, but Saddam is notoriously opportunistic. Under duress, he has changed his mind before: in 1975, when he signed the Algiers agreement with Iran, and last week, when he abruptly accepted Tehran's peace terms.

To justify aggression against fellow-Arabs in the name of pan-Arab leadership was an enormous political gamble. Most Arab leaders have ranged themselves against Iraq. Now even the Palestine Liberation Organisation, scenting failure, is distancing itself from Baghdad, and President Gaddafi has reversed his position to condemn the invasion of Kuwait and the holding of civilian hostages, even saying that Libya would, if asked, join a United Nations naval blockade.

Saddam must, therefore, be tempted to raise the stakes (possibly by destabilising Jordan with the aim of drawing in Israel) or to try to pluck some rhetorical victory out of the jaws of failure. There are signs that Baghdad has begun to look for ways to do the latter. Because Saddam understands the "logic of war", the world's best prospect of escaping its most hideous consequences is to press forward coolly with preparations for Saddam's defeat.

## JAPANESE JITTERS

The Tokyo stock market, already feeling distinctly fragile, yesterday had its ninth largest fall ever. Japanese shares have lost over 35 per cent of their value since the start of the year, nearly half of that since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Analysts say there is worse to come. If so, the effects may spread beyond Japan to the rest of the world.

Tokyo has suffered more from the Gulf crisis than any other major stock market, mainly because Japan is more dependent on imported oil from the Middle East. But underlying the jitters in Japan is a deeper worry about the soundness of the country's banks. This is a worry that the international financial community should share.

Eight out of the ten largest banks in the world are Japanese. They have become the world's biggest lenders. America relies partly on Japan to finance its budget deficit: 10 per cent of bidders for US Treasury bonds at the most recent auction were Japanese. And in the past few years, Japanese banks have moved into domestic corporate lending, both in Britain and America, often offering lower rates of interest than the competition in order to carve out a market share.

But because of falls in the Tokyo stock market, the big Japanese banks are starting to look just a little less credit-worthy than once they were. All banks have to show they have a certain proportion of money backing their lending. The problem arises over what is allowed to count as "money". Under new international rules, banks are now allowed to count up to 45 per cent of their unrealised profits on shares as part of their capital ratio. This has been boon to the Japanese in particular; they are large investors in the stock market and often own big crossholdings in other companies.

As the stock market falls, however, their capital base erodes. Already one of the big

American credit-rating agencies has downgraded the status of two Japanese banks. That means they are considered somewhat less likely to be able to pay their debts. More important to the rest of the world is that the smaller the banks' capital base becomes, the less money they will be able to lend.

The effects of this belt-tightening are already starting to be felt. Eurotunnel has been trying to persuade its Japanese bankers to come up with their share of the latest £2 billion refinancing, so far with little success. If the Japanese fail to deliver, the refinancing is almost certainly doomed.

If Japanese banks contract their lending, it will mainly be at the expense of overseas business. International lending tends to be less profitable, because it is more competitive, than lending at home. Besides, as the dollar falls, and Japanese interest rates rise, lending in yen looks more attractive than lending in dollars. Japanese interest rates have already risen by 1½ percentage points since the beginning of the year, and the bond markets believe they are set to rise again.

An interest rate increase will only exacerbate the problems the banks already face. It will dent the morale of the stock market still further, and put pressure on property speculators, to whom the banks have lent heavily. The banks will find themselves drawing back from new overseas entanglements. As the supply of lending from Japan diminishes, interest rates in other countries will rise.

Worst affected by this trend will probably be America. Cassandras have predicted a flight of capital out of New York and back to Tokyo for several years. So far, it has not materialised. But pressures on Japanese investors are growing. If anything can concentrate the mind of the Washington legislators on reducing the American budget deficit, it should be the falls on the Tokyo stock market.

## A WRINKLE OR TWO

Sir Crispin Tickell, Britain's permanent representative at the United Nations, is due to retire on his 60th birthday on Saturday. He has a bright future ahead of him no doubt, but should things go wrong, he might like to know that the DIY supermarket chain B&Q has vacancies for the over-fifties in Cardiff.

Sir Crispin has manfully applied appropriate British scorn to the misbehaviour of Iraq in the UN Security Council in recent days, but his first and gentle love is the environment, to which cause he is credited with having converted the prime minister. However, the consequences for the environment of any conflict in the Gulf is not the British Government's primary concern, so the greater wheeler-dealer skills of Sir David Hannay, Sir Crispin's designated successor and currently Britain's man in Brussels, may be more useful than the Gulf crunch approaches.

Like Sir Crispin, Sir David too will be expected to retire at 60, a use-by date to which the Foreign Office likes as few exceptions as possible. One such was Sir Antony Achand, UK ambassador in Washington, who was temporarily exempted from the rule on his 60th birthday earlier this year because of his "special relationship" with the Bush administration. Such exceptions should be more common.

Retirement at 60 applies to all civil servants. The fact that many may be at or hardly past their prime explains why strict and complicated rules have had to be introduced to control their future careers in industry or business. This is something of a contrast to the way modern society usually regards its more mature members. On the one hand they are

highly sought after to leaven a board of directors with their wisdom and experience. On the other hand commerce and industry still seems stuck with the nonsense of "too old at 50". Many a personnel manager — themselves perhaps in their 50s — would have to plead guilty to discrimination against others of their own age. It is time they saw it makes no sense. Congratulations, therefore, to B&Q, for breaking the mould; and may their profit margins ever grow.

The company opened a store in Macclesfield last year staffed entirely by "mature workers". It said yesterday they have proved better at communicating with customers, their absenteeism is lower, their health good, their contribution to turnover exceptional. They understand DIY too. Above all, of course, they understand people. The bias against the older employee in other companies suggests a worrying discounting of such skills in British marketing. To sell a gadget to Mr Jones, to plagiarise an educational aphorism, requires not just understanding the gadget but also understanding Mr Jones. To be the same age as Mr Jones is a head start.

The economic statistics indicate that it is the over-50s who are beginning to inherit the earth. They have the surplus cash, the spending power and the wisdom to use it discerningly. The squeeze of the demographic time-bomb — the declining number of young people coming on to the job market — will only gradually force employers to re-examine their "ageist" prejudices — unless, that is, the age group that is the object of such prejudice realises it has the economic power to force the pace, by choosing where it shops.

## Keeping up world pressure on Iraq

From Mr M. J. Dixon

Sir. Despite the criticism in your newspaper and elsewhere of the US decision to "enforce" an economic blockade against Iraq, it may well be lawful under international law. The error of the criticism is to see the US action as enforcement of the United Nations sanctions, although this is what some members of the Bush Administration unwisely called it.

While it is quite true that the United States has no power to enforce UN sanctions without specific Security Council authorisation, Resolution 661 itself expressly states that nothing therein shall restrict the right of collective self-defence. In this case, therefore, the crucial question is whether the blockade can be said to be an act of collective self-defence of Kuwait undertaken at the request of its legitimate government.

That having been said, nothing can condone Iraq's unspeakable behaviour.

Yours etc.,

ROBERT ADLEY,  
House of Commons.

August 20.

From Ms Ann Feltham and Ms Janet Williamson

Sir. The world's five leading arms-exporting countries — the Soviet Union, the United States, France, the United Kingdom and China — are also the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. In recent days that Council has exercised itself in an attempt to resolve the crisis in the Gulf.

The Council could well save itself late-night emergency meetings in the future if collectively and individually the governments of its permanent members sought to disengage from the dangerous business of trading in death, a business that has so often rebounded against them.

Yours sincerely,  
ANN FELTHAM,  
JANET WILLIAMSON

(Joint Coordinators),  
Campaign against Arms Trade,  
11 Goodwin Street,  
Finshury Park, N4.

August 20.

John Huston recalled

From Sir John Woolf

Sir. In defence of John Huston's posthumous reputation I must refute some of the defamatory statements made in the interview with Clint Eastwood which you published in Saturday Review (August 18).

My company, Romulus Films, was the co-producer of *The African Queen* with Sam Spiegel's Horizon Pictures and my company was responsible for the entire production cost other than the salaries of Huston, Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn, which were the responsibility of Horizon Pictures.

Far from costing \$4 million, the certified cost of production, apart from Horizon's contribution of \$600,000, was in fact £248,000. This compared with a budget of £213,000. Had Huston been so obsessed with elephant hunting that he had allowed it to delay the start of production, as Clint Eastwood's rather dull film takes two hours to depict, the budget would clearly have been considerably exceeded.

Far from mortgaging his London house, as your interview alleges, Sam Spiegel had never owned a house in London. The stars' and the director's living expenses at Cliveden were included in the budget for which my company was responsible.

After the great success of *The African Queen*, which has made it a classic, I produced two further films with Huston which I most certainly would never have embarked upon had he been the tiresome and irresponsible egomaniac your interview and Eastwood's film make him out to be. The Eastwood interpretation, apart from voice and mannerisms, is a complete misrepresentation of Huston's character as I found it to be. He was a truly great man.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN WOOLF (Chairman),  
Romulus Films Ltd.,  
214 The Chambers,  
Chelsea Harbour, SW10.

August 20.

Poverty figures

From the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group

Sir, I am afraid that Dr David Green of the Institute for Economic Affairs ("Poverty figures 'doctored'", report, August 20) has got his facts about the Child Poverty Action Group wrong.

As the former Secretary of State for Social Security, John Moore, has acknowledged, CPAG "are always scrupulous in defining their terms" (letter to CPAG, May 25, 1989). We have not defined "one-third of the country as poor". We do not include "those below the benefit level as poor".

We have for many years defined those on supplementary benefit and below as poor — as it appears

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Unanswered questions on exams

From Mr Eric Dehn

Sir. As examination results emerge, statistics will be bandied about proving whatever the statisticians wish them to prove. As a retired examiner I can reveal — without, I hope, seeming to indulge in the popular pastime of "leaking", or in any way prejudicing the nation's security — certain insider dealings and past machinations by examination boards.

There was the board that always failed 20 per cent of candidates on the grounds that, if papers turned out to be too difficult or too easy, standards could thus be consistently maintained (when the practice became known schools entered a multitude of morons to fill the 20 per cent). Other boards stuck to an absolute pass standard of, say, 50 per cent. (This wasn't immutable: "Hey," said the chief examiner to me, "you've failed everyone in such and such a school. They are new customers and this will be excessively discouraging".)

The public is free to choose the sources of advice and whether, or how much, it wishes to pay for them. I have no doubt, however, that teachers, career advisers, higher education institutions and the clearing houses would all put their faith behind the officially recognised sources of advice and would deprecate the private approach as unethical. I sincerely hope that the media throttle back on the credence which they increasingly appear to be giving them.

Yours faithfully,

M. A. HIGGINS, Chief Executive, Polytechnics Central Admissions System, Fulton House, Jessop Avenue, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. August 16.

From Mrs M. Munro-Hill

Sir, in *Le Figaro* of July 17 some interesting figures were quoted for the period 1901 to the present day, showing the percentage of students from each year group successful in the Baccalaureat.

In 1900 the percentage stands at 4%; in 1901 the pass rate was 1 per cent, in 1960 it was 11.2 per cent and by 1985 it had grown to 29 per cent. The target for the year 2000 is 80 per cent. One cannot help thinking that if 80 per cent of French students are to gain a pass in the Baccalaureat, the equivalent of our A levels, there will be very little value attached to the examination.

Since the declared intent of our GCSE examination boards for candidates aged 16-plus is very similar to that of the French educational authorities for their 18-plus age-group, one may wonder how long it will be before 80 per cent of British students at 18-plus, having known little or no failure at GCSE, succeed at advanced-level examinations.

Yours faithfully,  
M. MUNRO-HILL,  
2 South Glebe,  
Lockington,  
Driffield, Yorkshire.  
August 17.

### Cool comforts

From Professor Michael Marland

Sir. The vocabulary of "national condom week" (report, August 14) reveals a semantic problem which exacerbates HIV/AIDS education. The Director General of the British Safety Council very reasonably recommends that women should "make sure their partner always used a condom during intercourse, irrespective of any other method of contraception being used".

The word contraception means "against conception". What is meant by this that could have been the common one (and is indeed more common in some parts of Europe) has not become the usual one in the UK: "prophylactic" (from "pro", meaning in advance, and the Greek *phylax*, a guardian).

In the last century the condom was recommended as much as a protection against disease as it is the almost universal use of the term "contraception" makes it harder to remember that the device also prevents the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL MARLAND  
(Headteacher),  
North Westminster Community School,  
Marylebone Lower House,  
Penfold Street, NW1.  
August 13.

From Mr Ian T. Millar

Sir. There is a solution to the problem of the businessman who has to cope with heat, convention, and the need for enough pockets to accommodate wallet, credit cards and cheque-book (separately stowed for security), business diary, pen, key ring, spectacles and, in my case, pocket comb and folding scissors as well.

The answer is to wear a sleeveless fisherman's jacket, which is light and cool with nine pockets or so of assorted size. I am not a fisherman myself, and I find the long pocket at the back meant for a fish will hold a folded copy of *The Times*.

Yours sincerely,  
I. T. MILLAR,  
94 Norfolk Avenue,  
South Croydon,  
Surrey.

### Bunnies at law

From Mr A. D. Parr

Sir. Messrs Preston and Lewis Jones (August 14 and 22) appear to be treading on dangerous ground in their appraisal of the activities of Peter Rabbit.

One must bear in mind that the evidence against Peter is purely circumstantial and almost entirely based upon the scurrilous accusations of one Beatrice Potter. Ms Potter's writings have made similar accusations on more than one occasion (e.g., one Squirrel Nutkin and various mice with urban deprivation problems).

I suggest that it may pay Peter Rabbit to consult lawyers. A claim for damages for libel should put an end to these unsubstantiated rumours.

Yours faithfully,  
A. D. PARR,  
27 Greenvalle,  
Northfield,  
Birmingham,  
August 22.

in the pension fund is apparently irrelevant.

The rules make no distinction between early retirement and redundancy (my italics); neither do they apply to unemployed persons under 55. But for those men with a maximum of ten years to state retirement (only five for women) their sole mistake is to have used the employer's pension fund manager to invest their savings and not someone else. Virtually all other sources of income are disregarded by the DSS.

The outcome of this is that unemployment benefit is clawed back, pound for pound, against occupational pension until the relevant



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
August 22: Mrs Robert de Pass  
has succeeded Lady Abel Smith  
as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

61: General Sir Richard Vincent, 59; Sir Brian Young, chairman, Christian Aid, 68.

### Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Astley Cooper, surgeon, Brook Hall, Norfolk, 1768; Georges Cuvier, Baron Cuvier, zoologist and statesman, Mombi, France, 1769; William Ernest Henley, writer, Gloucester, 1849; Eleutherios Venizelos, five times Prime Minister of Greece, 1864; Sir Henry Tizard, scientist, Gillingham, Kent, 1885.

DEATHS: Sir William Wallace, Scottish patriot, executed, London, 1305; Luis de Leon, mystic and poet, Madrid al de las Atas, Spain, 1591; Charles Augustin de Coulomb, physicist, Paris, 1806; Rudolf Valentino, New York, 1926; Adolf Loos, architect, Vienna, 1933; Oscar Hammerstein II, song writer, Doylestown Pennsylvania, 1960.

Britain took Hong Kong from China, 1839. The 'Blitz' on London began, 1940.

## Forthcoming marriages

The Hon V.G. Boscawen and Miss C.M. Halliday  
The engagement is announced between the Hon Vere George Boscawen, youngest son of Viscount and Viscountess Falmouth, of Tregearman, Truro, and Catharine Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Halliday, of Whiston Hall, Westbury, Shropshire.

Mr M. Bradford and Miss J.C. Hopcraft  
The engagement is announced between Mr and Mrs M. Bradford, of Trowbridge, and Mrs Lorraine Bradford, of Toronto, and Joanna Charlotte, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Hopcraft, of Higher Luxton, Chippingford, Somerset.

Mr P.S. Chamberlain and Miss T.S. Humphrey  
The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of the late Mr Edwin Chamberlain and of Mrs Chamberlain, of Great Malvern, Worcestershire, and Tania, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Marcus Humphrey, of Dineton, Aberdeenshire.

Mr R.G. Coase and Miss R.M. Dougan  
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.G. Coase, of Burton Bradstock, Dorset, and Rose May, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.I. Dougan, of Car勩ke, Lancashire.

Mr R.E. Coates and Miss S.C. Morgans  
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mrs K.A. Batey, of Chelwood Gate, Sussex, and Mr C. Coates, of Crowborough, Sussex, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs B.G. Morgans, of Lindfield, Sussex.

Mr A.J. Harding and Miss S.M. Williams  
Anthony Harding of Earshill, Co. Tipperary, and Susan Williams, of Kensington, London, are pleased to announce their engagement.

Mr A. Jeannay and Miss C. Williams  
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs J. Jeannay, of St Helier, Jersey, and Clare, daughter of Rev Dr and Mrs A. Williams, of St Saviour, Jersey.

Mr N.C. Lyster and Miss N.J. Oliver  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs N.C. Lyster, of Malins Green House, Lysterde-Haugh, Essex, and Nancy, elder daughter of Mrs Eleanor Oliver, of Oxnard, California, USA.

## Christian men urged to lose wimpish image

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

MEN outside the church believe that men who go to church are "wimps and wallies", according to a theologian who is researching the masculinity myth in Christianity.

Christian men are partly to blame, he says, because they often "hide from the world in religious ghettos, sing hymns and sit on committees". Instead, they need to be in the world, "demonstrating the distinctiveness of the Christian approach to masculinity".

Steve Turner, a freelance journalist and poet who will give a seminar on "How to be a not naif evangelical", said that too many people still thought of evangelicals as fundamentalists, Bible bashers or "Jesus freaks".

The Greenbelt Arts Festival, he said, attracts mostly young people who are interested in youth culture but who are not necessarily Christian. "If they are Christian, they face great pressure from youth culture to be embarrassed about being an evangelical." The answer, he said, lay in joining in with prevailing cultures while emphasising the doctrinal strengths of Christianity.

Greenbelt will also explore the dilemma facing women in a male dominated church: a survey to be published next month will show that nearly two-thirds of churchgoers are women.

Men trying to change can

## OBITUARIES

Sir Edward Johnson Wayne, Emeritus Regius Professor of the Practice of Medicine at Glasgow University and previously Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at Sheffield University, died aged 88 on August 19. He was born on June 3, 1902.

EDWARD Wayne was chairman of the British Medical Association's committee on alcohol and road accidents which recommended in 1965 that the legal limit should be 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood — a limit still applying today. He did much to introduce the change in attitude that led to the breathalyser test. Subsequently he served on several national committees concerned with research in medicine and the use of drugs.

Educated first in chemistry and then in medicine, Wayne was well placed to play a leading part in a new era of scientific therapeutics. His early medical research was on the action of drugs on the human heart and later he was among the first to utilise radioactive iodine in the investigation and treatment of

thyroid disorders. Wayne graduated BSc in the University of Leeds with first class honours in chemistry in 1923 and as holder of the Sir Wile Smith Fellowship he carried out research in organic chemistry under the direction of Professor J. B. Cohen leading to a MSc degree a year later.

He then turned to biochemistry and worked with Professor H. S. Raper in Manchester receiving the PhD degree in 1925. This experience excited his interest in the application of these sciences to the investigation of human disease and he completed a medical training at Leeds. After serving as a house physician in the General Infirmary at Leeds and as a demonstrator in physiology in the University of Leeds he moved in 1931 to the Department of Clinical Research at University College Hospital, London. He was appointed at 32 to succeed Sir Edward Mellanby in the Chair of Pharmacology at Sheffield University. This post combined, on a whole-time basis, charge of experimental laboratories in the university and clinical responsibilities in the

Sheffield Royal Infirmary and Children's Hospital.

During the second world war Wayne extended his range of activities both in teaching and in providing a service as a consultant physician in Sheffield. The expansion of the Medical School at Sheffield after the war enabled him to enlarge his department and to attract to it many young men active in research.

In 1954 he moved to Glasgow to become Regius Professor of the Practice of Medicine at the Western Infirmary and physician to the Queen in Scotland. He brought with him his zest for research and new developments and his impact was soon evident in the department. He was the author of numerous scientific papers on cardiovascular disease, endocrinology and drug therapy. His research into thyroid disorders led to the publication of a monograph "Clinical Aspects of Iodine Metabolism". He was a member of the Medical Research Council 1958-62 and at various times was chairman of the British National Formulary Committee, the British Pharmacopoeia Commission,

the Clinical Research Board and the Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence.

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In 1932 he married Honora Nancy Hallinan, who survives him with one son and one daughter.



## RODERICK COOK



Roderick Cook, English-born actor and singer, died in Los Angeles on August 17 of an apparent heart attack. He was 58.

MOST of Roderick Cook's stage career was spent in North America and much of his success derived from Noel Coward. He was probably best-known as the creator and star of a three-character revue, *Oh Coward*, which enjoyed a considerable run in America and Canada early in the 1970s. In Britain it was rather more short-lived, being overshadowed by the triumph of a similar though more expansive Mermaid Theatre anthology called *Cowardy Custard*, also based on the words and music of Noel Coward.

Cook grew up in Britain and first came to attention as an undergraduate at Queen's College, Cambridge, where he joined that great breeding ground of light talent, The Footlights, early in the 1950s as a revue comedian. It was a golden age for the company and what was first seen at the Cambridge Arts Theatre in early summer generally transferred to the West End a couple of months later.

Cook duly made his London debut with The Footlights and his success led to professional engagements. His slight figure and debonair manner made him cut out for cabaret and intimate revue. He appeared with Maggie Smith among others in such

entertainments at London fringe theatres including the Watergate and the New Lindsey.

Cook graduated from there to minor roles in West End musicals and had a spell in the classical repertory at the Old Vic before deciding at the beginning of the 1960s to make his life and career in

New York. He began to specialise in roles as an eccentric, attenuated Englishman abroad with an elfin-kind of mischievous charm — rather as though Peter Pan had been allowed to grow up and make his living as an expatriate Broadway hoover. In due course he took out American citizenship.

Cook's film appearances were few and fleeting but he appeared in such distinguished movies as *Amadeus* and *9 1/2 Weeks*. Shortly before his death he was briefly reunited with Maggie Smith during rehearsals for the current Broadway production of Peter Shaffer's *Le亭e and Lovage*. Differences of backstage opinion led him to leave the cast before the opening night, however, and he returned to the California which had long been his home.

## HENRY CROWN

Henry Crown, the American industrialist who once owned the Empire State Building, died on August 15 at the age of 94.

SON OF a Lithuanian immigrant sweatshop worker, Henry Crown amassed a \$2 billion fortune through a huge construction supply firm. He was a founder of Material Service Corporation, which served as the cornerstone of his financial empire. Most of the fortune is now in the hands of Crown's relatives, who began receiving portions of his wealth for tax purposes as early as 1925.

Born Henry Krinsky, Crown started working at the age of 12 on a delivery round for 50c a day. At 19, he still only had \$50 in the bank. In 1919 he and his brothers, Sol and Irving, formed Material Service with \$10,000, most of it borrowed. The company helped to build such Chicago landmarks as the Loop Subway, the Merchandise Mart and the Civic Opera House. The firm was merged in 1959 with General Dynamics of St Louis, and though Crown maintained a substantial stake, he was not happy with the way it was being run.

Crown helped to guide General Dynamics out of difficulties encountered as a result of the company's effort to enter commercial aviation. Then the firm bought out his interest in 1966 for \$132 million — \$62 per share. He then started buying General Dynamics' stock for less than \$33 per share and eventually built up a 22 per cent stake, which enabled him to retain control of Material.

In 1951, his syndicate bought New York's Empire State Building for \$51.5 million, but he sold what was then the world's tallest skyscraper in 1961 because "the building no longer interested me". His company had renovated the Manhattan landmark, adding air-conditioning and making it more appealing.

Crown held interests in banks, building materials, electronics, financing, hotels, insurance, natural gas, oil, retailing, railroads and ship building and had widespread real estate interests throughout Illinois, California and New York. His Southern California interests at one time included Del Mar race track, the Greystone Estate in Beverly Hills and the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

He had a reputation for unusual philanthropy. By the age of 79 he had given away "nine figures" in two decades, much of it to universities. He said in a 1971 interview: "My goal since the end of World War II, and I think I've attained it, is to have less money at the end of the year than I had at the beginning of the year. I don't need it. It's needed elsewhere."

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# Atomic tusk test could end illegal ivory trade

Decades of relentless ivory poaching have put the African elephant high on the endangered species list. But the war against the poacher may eventually be fought with a new type of weapon, an ivory "fingerprinting" technique, that pinpoints exactly where in Africa the tusks came from, giving the national park rangers a positive lead in tracking down the culprits.

Researchers in South Africa have discovered that the ratios of certain atomic isotopes in elephant bones and tusks provide a distinctive chemical "signature" of the animal's home environment.

Using techniques to "read" the isotope signatures of suspect pieces of ivory, conservationists may, in the future, be able to deduce where the elephants were killed. That knowledge, to the chagrin of the ivory trader, could allow them to distinguish between ivory poached from game reserves and materials obtained from legal culling elsewhere.

The tell-tale signatures are the result of a kind of environmental "imprinting". For several years it has been known that the isotope composition of animal bone and flesh is partly fixed by diet, which in turn is influenced by habitat.

The bones of elephants that feed mainly on grass, for instance, have a different ratio of carbon isotopes from those of their shrub-eating cousins. If shrubs are scarce in a particular region, the elephants born and bred there will produce

**A form of scientific bone 'fingerprinting' could help track down the ivory poachers and save the African elephant from the threat of extinction, David Concar reports**

ivory with a distinctive "grassy" isotope signature.

Similarly, an elephant's endowment of the rare atomic isotope nitrogen-15 depends on its availability from local vegetation. The more arid an environment is, the more nitrogen-15 its vegetation holds, and so the more richly endowed in the isotope an elephant's tusks become.

Likewise, levels of strontium and lead isotopes in tusks are fixed by those in the local vegetation, which in turn come from the local soil and water.

In today's *Nature* magazine, the researchers, who worked in two rival teams, describe how measurements of carbon, nitrogen, and strontium isotopes in combination allow the bones and tusks of different populations of southern African elephants to be distinguished.

To prove their point, they took bone and ivory specimens from elephants in game reserves all over southern Africa, including the Addo Elephant National Park, the Kruger National Park and the Etosha Game Reserve, and showed that the isotope signature of any one reserve is significantly

different from those of neighbouring reserves.

The original aim of the research was to discover what elephants eat so that game reserves could be better managed, says Dr Tim Heaton, of the British Geological Survey, who worked with Dr John Vogel and his isotope research team in Pretoria in the Transvaal for ten years. "We also measured isotopes in bones from prehistoric human populations to see if we could distinguish between a sea and terrestrial diet," he adds.

In the past ten years, the total number of African elephants has plunged from about 1.3 million to an estimated 600,000 almost exclusively because of ivory poaching.

In the southern African countries, including Botswana and Zimbabwe, effective action was taken to stabilise local elephant populations at an earlier stage, but elsewhere pressure from poaching grew overwhelming.

As a result, all trade in ivory was effectively banned last year through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the international wildlife convention that protects

species threatened with extinction.

Although Britain opted out for the first six months of this year in order to clear huge ivory stocks in Hong Kong, it is now committed to abiding by the ban until at least 1992.

But Simon Lyster, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, says: "All the economists said that if you ban the trade in ivory, you'll drive the trade underground. Its scarcity value will increase, the price will increase and poaching will increase. In fact the opposite has happened."

**H**e maintains that with legal trading having almost stopped, the need for a new method of identifying poached ivory is not as great as it once was. However, Dr Julia Lee-Thorp, a member of Professor van der Merwe's isotope research group at Cape Town University, doubts whether the total ban will last.

Five southern African countries, including Botswana and Zimbabwe, have opted out and at any time could decide to sell ivory from legally culled elephants. "Our method will be useful in making sure that only culled ivory reaches the market and trade routes and not poached ivory," Dr Lee-Thorp says.

Her main fear is that the market in Japan, where ivory is a culturally established commodity rather than a luxury, will prove impossible to eradicate.

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Face to face with death: a family of elephants find an elephant slaughtered by poachers for its tusks



Searching for fatal disorders: Professor Pepys with his scanner

**A** test that can diagnose a range of potentially fatal disorders with more accuracy, speed and safety than existing methods has been developed by British scientists.

Some conditions which are usually recognised only when they have reached an advanced or incurable stage will now be detectable much sooner by the technique. It could also lead, within the next few years, to the first forms of effective treatment against them.

The test is for systemic amyloidosis, a rare and usually fatal syndrome in which deposits of protein called amyloid spread silently through the body and cause progressive damage to vital organs such as the heart, kidneys, liver and spleen.

Amyloid also gathers in the

brain, bone marrow and joints, and is part of the body's ageing process. There is no effective treatment which dissolves the deposits of Amyloid, although their progression can be delayed in some cases.

More often than not, amyloidosis is undiagnosed and discovered only by chance at post-mortem examinations. Current diagnosis depends on biopsy, the removal of samples of tissue or cells for microscopic examination, but this can be hazardous to many patients.

The new method has been developed by researchers at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital.

of degrading or dissolving the deposits.

Another tantalising prospect is that the technique could be used in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, the most common type of senile dementia. This crippling and untreatable disorder is characterised in more than 90 per cent of cases by amyloid plaques and deposits wherever they are in the body, and provides detailed images of them via the scanner.

At present, Alzheimer's disease can be diagnosed only by the process of excluding other possible causes. "It is much too soon to predict a diagnostic test for Alzheimer's, let alone a treatment, but medicine has always progressed from diagnosis to treat-

ment, and that is where our hopes would lie," Professor Pepys said yesterday.

The technique involves the use of a purified human plasma protein called serum amyloid P component, or SAP, combined with a radioactive ingredient to allow it to be traced in the body by sophisticated scanning equipment. When it is injected into the patient, it rapidly locates amyloid deposits wherever they are in the body, and provides detailed images of them via the scanner.

"This method allows us to uncover hidden conditions in a non-invasive, relatively simple way. It provides clinically important information which is not otherwise available," Professor Pepys said.

THOMSON PRENTICE

## Prescription for future health?

### British team develop early warning for hidden serious disease

west London, and is described in detail in today's issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The scientists, led by Professor Mark Pepys, are cautious about some potential applications of the test, but believe it will become widely used.

One of the most exciting possibilities is that within the next few years the test could be adapted as a specific targeting agent which could be coupled to agents capable

of degrading or dissolving the deposits.

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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## MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE 16th century writer William Bullein defined the still current popular view when he wrote in *The Bulwark Against All Sickness* that "a good kitchen is a good apothecaries' shop". Jonathan Swift, 100 years later, endorsed Bullein's opinion when he said: "Kitchen physic is the best physic."

Hospital regimes no longer reflect this approach, for, in the past 30 years, ward mealtimes have ceased to be the high points in the patient's day. Until then, they were considered an important, sometimes the most important, factor in an invalid's recovery, but their status has slipped; they are rarely discussed on ward rounds, and recovery today is tending to rely more on complex medical procedures, coupled with the power of modern drugs, than the ability of a nurse to charm an aged or frail patient to finish the soup in the feeding cup. Sometimes it seems

## Crusts of no comfort

to the bystander, as he watches inexperienced relatives trying to persuade a desperately ill or dejected patient to eat and drink, that the occasional meal might be preserved if there was time available for ward staff to concentrate on an individual's nourishment.

To those brought up in the era of calves'-foot jelly, Beagles, and the teaching of Halliburton on the value of hot, tempting, meals, the opinions expressed by the National Association of Health Authorities (NAHA) this week seem almost sacrilegious.



## A pain never to be ignored

THE magazine *General Practitioner* reports that a 13-year-old boy who lost a testicle through gangrene has been awarded £3,000 damages against his general practitioner, who failed to diagnose the cause of the trouble, torsion of the testis, despite the classic symptoms of sudden testicular pain and vomiting.

Acute testicular pain is a symptom which always needs immediate investigation, but in this case the boy was initially advised, over the telephone, to take an aspirin, apply a hot water bottle to the affected area and, to all intents and purposes, wait to see what nature could achieve in the way of a cure. Later the GP visited him, diagnosed an acute infection (epidymo-orchitis) and only five days later — by which time the testicle was gangrenous — called for a specialist's opinion.

Torsion of the testis is a surgical emergency. Like other testicular diseases it is, due to some undiscovered quirks of modern life, becoming increasingly common. The affected testicle, which fails to descend in early life in the accustomed way, is thereafter poorly anchored and twists within the scrotum. The twisting cuts off the blood supply where it flows down the spermatic cord and, in consequence, the organ, starved of nourishment, becomes gangrenous within six hours.

Torsion of the testis can occur at any age, even in babies, but is most common in teenagers and in early adult life; it usually

follows violent activities, particularly those, such as changing a wheel or heaving paving stones, which make the patient grunt, and it can also occur during sexual intercourse. The testis has to be untwisted and fixed. At the same time the other one is anchored, because whatever the abnormality which produced the trouble on one side is also likely to cause similar problems later on the other.

As happened in the case

reported in *General Practitioner*, the condition is easily confused with epidymo-orchitis, particularly if visiting the patient is delayed so that there has been time for the overlying skin to become inflamed. Many experienced practitioners feel that epidymo-orchitis should be diagnosed with certainty only when there is an obvious urethral discharge, or a history of contact with mumps. Other cases need an expert opinion.

## Putting the bite on tooth decay

ROTTEN teeth in the 16th and 17th centuries were a sign of affluence, for only the nobles could afford the sweetmeats, which cause decay. The working man's teeth may have been ground down by coarse, contaminated cereals, but they were healthy.

Archaeologists working on the Mary Rose noted how much better the ratings' teeth were than those of the officers. In the 19th century and the first three-quarters of this century, class bias was reversed; the upper classes had better care for teeth, while all too often the urchin's grin was disfigured by blackened stumps.

Today the social background matters much less. The most important factors in preventing dental decay are no longer a careful diet, a trip to the dentist each prep school holiday, or even dental hygiene. Using fluoride toothpaste, taking fluoride supplements and, above all, living in an area where the local authority adds fluoride to the water are now the factors that matter

most. In Birmingham, where fluoride has been added to the water at one part per million, dental decay is half that in other boroughs, often in middle-class areas, which have refused to add fluoride.

Doctors, dentists, parents and the children of the post-fluoride age now growing into young adults all welcome increasingly healthy British mouths. For example, since 1983 the number of children in the Bath area at the age of five with no decay has increased from 45 to 65 per cent.

Mr A.V.F. Pitter, writing in *Dental Practice*, has drawn attention to one problem caused by the lack of decay: dentists are no longer able to identify a badly decomposed or burnt body by recognising the victim's teeth. Modern teeth no longer carry his hallmark.

As dentists have more time, their interest in orthodontics has grown, but Mr Pitter maintains that few have up-to-date models, photographs or X-rays of the completed work on the patient, and makes a plea that the decay-free younger

generations should wear a durable identification disc.

## Trouble in the family way

A fertility clinic is offering to help with surrogacy, for a fee.

Is this progress?



Sir Malcolm: for anonymity

ments. However, according to Sir Malcolm MacNaughton, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Glasgow university, surrogates often are paid, even if the payment is described as expenses. "We've been told the going rate is about £6,000," he says.

Sir Malcolm, the chairman of the committee which produced the BMA's surrogacy report, and a member of the Infant Licensing Authority which regulates the activities of fertility clinics, is not opposed to payment. He believes, however, that surrogacy should take place anonymously.

"We have been advised by the adoption and fostering experts that the two groups should not know each other, otherwise there could be unpredictable and possibly harmful effects on all concerned."

"A sister to sister system is particularly undesirable because the child would be left uncertain which was his aunt, and which was his mother. And what would happen if the best mother decided her sister was not bringing the child up properly?"

The new law will not insist on anonymity, an aspect of BMA policy with which Bourn Hall disagrees. Bourn Hall's activities in this controversial area are guided by

its ethics committee, which consists of an Anglican bishop, a gynaecologist unconnected to the clinic, a general practitioner, a lawyer, a scientist and two other lay people.

Audrey Elliott, the committee

chairman and a retired teacher, says: "We have been considering the question of IVF surrogacy for many years. The few cases which we have approved have been considered on an individual basis after extensive counselling. We are now trying to formulate strong guidelines which can be used for future cases."

Doctors at Bourn Hall stress that the clinic's £2,500 fee for medical and counselling services alone, and couples make their own surrogacy arrangements.

Peter Brinsden, the medical director of Bourn Hall, says: "We believe that patients who are unable to bear children of their own can and should be helped. We will not provide a service for the mother who does not want to interrupt her career by bearing her own child."

So far the clinic has transferred two embryos into surrogates, in both cases the sisters of the genetic mothers. Dr Tim Appleton, an ordained priest who provides counselling at Bourn Hall and several other clinics where surrogacy is being considered, says that most of the others on the waiting list are unrelated. "I have been pleasantly surprised: they seem to be people who understand the misery of infertility and want to help. I think the BMA is wrong to recommend anonymity. The genetic parents need to know who is going to bear their child, and the surrogate needs to know where the child is going."

"I see helping people with these arrangements as part of my profession."

Dr Natalie Macdonald, the ethics spokesman for the BMA, is unhappy that Bourn Hall has ignored the anonymity guidance. "As soon as you start to ponder this the problems are endless. It is because the situation is potentially so messy that we recommend anonymity, for the sake of the child."

ANN KENT

These opinions supported the Coventry Health District, which has announced that as an economy it, like many other authorities, will in future provide National Health Service patients with only one hot main meal a day; sandwiches and fruit will be available for dinner in the evening. Reasoned opinions have been advanced to support this decision. The association claims that it is easier to serve cold food which is healthy and fresh, by which it means the meals are less likely to be contaminated by salmonella than reheated hot food. Hospital meals are often cooked at a central point and then distributed to smaller hospitals around the area for reheating. The association makes a fundamental error; it is confusing the appetite and needs of patients who are ravaged by disease with those of the rest of the population. A farm worker sweating it out in the harvest field can work up an enthusiasm for the dullest sandwich. Likewise, the hungry traveller may relish British Rail sandwiches. But the loss of appetite which is a symptom common to most physical and mental disease is unlikely to be overcome by an institutional sandwich. The health authorities, as they trim the costs of looking after patients, may claim sandwiches have as many calories, vitamins, minerals and as much protein as a reheated hot meal, and rather less salmonella, but this will be of little consolation to patients too wearied and wasted by their disease to chew a rubbery crust.

## Survival can be simply a matter of accident

## Did Roman Britons

have a better chance

of life-saving

treatment than

patients in

the NHS?

Liz Gill reports

Britain had more trauma centres under Roman occupation than it has now. "They were called valentimaria and archaeologists have found the remains of 11 of them in regions," says Professor Donald Trunkey, a professor of surgery at Oregon Health Sciences University, in the United States, and an authority on the treatment of the severely injured. "They were designed to give the best possible care to legionaries who had been hurt in battle."

"It seems ironic that what you have today is essentially a non-system. I would have thought that would be unacceptable."

The outcome for the accident victim in this country in terms of both survival and full recovery often appears to be largely a matter of luck. Crash your car in East Anglia, for instance, and you could be attended at the roadside by a specially trained GP, fall from scaffolding within a 50-mile radius of Biggin Hill airfield, Bromley, and you could be reached by the Royal London Hospital's helicopter; suffer an industrial accident in Stoke-on-Trent and a "flying squad" could be dispatched from the city's Royal Infirmary.

In other areas, however, your chances of survival might be much slimmer and it was to remove this element of chance that the Royal College of Surgeons called two years ago for the establishment of 24 trauma centres around the United Kingdom.

In a study of 1,000 accidental deaths in which half the patients had been alive on arrival at hospital, the college's working party concluded that a third could have survived, given the right treatment at the right time. Of 170 preventable deaths, 86 had been wrongly diagnosed and in many cases surgery had been delayed, incomplete, or not given at all.

The report estimated that nationally almost 5,000 lives could be saved every year. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, 15,000 people die in accidents annually, including 5,000 on the roads, of whom more than 400 are children. Five years ago the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention estimated that traffic accidents alone cost the country £2.8 billion a year.

"Injury is the commonest cause of death in the under thirty-fives," says Professor Miles Irving, the professor of surgery at Manchester University and chairman of the working party from the royal college. "A tenth of health care costs in the European Community is devoted to dealing with injury."

"The problem is that, for the average hospital, cases of very seriously injured patients are comparatively rare and therefore you cannot have experienced surgeons and anaesthetists waiting around for something that may happen once or twice a week. So they get on with other work and the patient may be seen by a junior doctor. What a trauma centre would provide is the immediate availability of consultant opinion 24 hours a day, every day."

The report says that, for a hospital to cater for trauma effectively, it must have a number of specialities available on site, not just in the key areas of neurosurgery, cardiothoracic surgery and orthopaedics, but also in plastic, vascular and maxillofacial surgery.

The number of hospitals which can offer all these together, plus the necessary accident and emergency and intensive care departments, may be handful. In the south, for example, there are four: one in Southampton and three in London: the Royal Free, Bart's and the Royal London.

Ideally, no one should be more than 20 minutes from a centre but distance is not as crucial as time, particularly during what is known as the "golden hour", the period immediately after an accident when many patients die from blood loss or blocked airways.

A paramedical team trained in resuscitation techniques, able to staunch bleeding and insert a breathing tube could afford to bypass the nearest hospital in order to get the expert help at the trauma unit. "At the moment," Professor Irving says, "all we have is a scoop and run policy."

The quality of treatment during the immediate post-injury phase may also affect a patient's chance during another danger period which may come two or three weeks later. Vulnerability to infection can be influenced by blood loss early on.

Severe injury is sometimes difficult to spot. Professor Brian Rowlands, a consultant surgeon at



The Roman way: archaeologists have found the remains of 11 trauma centres in Britain

the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, and chairman of an international trauma conference last year, says: "Someone with a blunt injury from a car crash may languish in an emergency department before it is realised he is in a ruptured liver. I always preach anticipation rather than reaction."

The trouble now, he says, is that treatment can depend on where an accident occurs and "it is that business of luck that we need to eliminate".

Professor Rowlands describes injury deaths as the "last great plague of the young". Professor Trunkey believes this is why it is still low on the list of priorities. "Politicians and those who determine what is spent are much more concerned with cancer and heart disease because those are the things that affect them. Yet if you cured all cancers you would only affect average longevity by two years because it is a disease primarily of the old. The average age for the motor vehicle accident victim is 27."

"These systems are expensive to set up, but they are extremely cost effective. It has been calculated in the United States that if you can return a 20-year-old man to work he will repay your investment 3,000 per cent in terms of what he puts back into the economy compared with what has been spent on him."

American trauma centres claim to have cut death rates by 30 per cent and to return 85 per cent of patients to full productivity within a year. West Germany, which has had a trauma system for 20 years, has seen its annual death toll fall from 16,000 to 8,000.

The Royal London Hospital's emergency helicopter has been operating for more than a year and dealt with almost 300 patients in accidents ranging from motorway pile-ups to falls on building sites. So far, says Dr Mark Dalton, a registrar, 10 lives have been saved. The service is paid for partly by private enterprise and partly by the NHS, which is completing a helipad at the hospital, along with two more operating theatres and a four-bed unit. The aircraft can fly across London in ten minutes and can land at the scenes of most accidents and in the grounds of 60 hospitals in the surrounding area. "We believe this is the way forward," Dr Dalton says.

There has been some movement, however. The health department is funding the first designated trauma centre in

United Kingdom at Stoke's Royal Infirmary in a pilot scheme to run two or three years.

Not all experts are in favour of trauma centres. Major-General Norman Kirby, the accident and

emergency consultant at Guy's Hospital and the president of the British Association for Accident and Emergency Medicine, believes patients may be better served by improving the existing services particularly the staffing

levels in many existing accident departments. "Our trauma service is very poor compared with parts of the Continent and we badly need to pull together various elements," he says.

He prefers the idea of trauma experts backing up existing departments and points out that Australia has found its special centres to be expensive white elephants.

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## FICTION

## An afternoon of nuclear delight

Victoria Glendinning  
on an observation of  
the unobservable  
that is amusing,  
moving, intellectually  
activating but  
never bullying

THE GATE OF ANGELS  
By Penelope Fitzgerald  
Collins, £12.95

This is an achievement — a metaphysical novel which is entertaining, brief (167 pages), and a love story. It is highly original, yet familiar in the context of clever women's writing — it is as if this were an Iris Murdoch novel condensed by Alice Thomas Ellis in a bittersweet and ruthless mood. The book's shortness and sparseness, combined with the complexity of its concerns, is a miracle of technique. And in spite of its concentrated quality, there still seem airy spaces in the writing and time for leisurely observations about how grass looks in a flooded water-meadow, or about the choices one has to make, on a cart-track, between walking in the ruts and walking on the ridge between them.

The story is set in Cambridge in 1912, when nuclear research was getting under way at the Cavendish Laboratory. Fred, our physicist hero, believes that the soul is a fiction, the mind a function of the body and that nothing exists which cannot be observed through the senses. The things that can be observed — or researched — make up the fibrous matter of the novel, from the make of Fred's bicycle and the pattern its tyres make on a wet road, to the medicines and remedies in a dispensary, the briquettes of coal dust and tealeaves used as fuel, and the way to cook a cow-heel. The straw hat of a working girl is painted with lacquer so it won't collapse in the rain; her sleeves are too short because they are turned under to hide the fraying (some girls in the frayed part instead).

The sleeves in question are Daisy's. She is a handsome, sensible girl from Brixton, full of angelic wit, with whom Fred becomes entangled, literally, when their bicycles collide on a Cambridge road. Irrationally, Fred finds he is in love with her. But he keeps losing track of her. Fred's problem is that the unreasonable



Chuckling notions about like ping-pong balls: Penelope Fitzgerald uses methods which flatter the reader, who should be able to finish her book in a long afternoon

and the unobservable keep getting in the way of his beliefs. Even the atom is unobservable, "a provisional idea". He belongs to a perverse debating society where members have to argue in favour of propositions in which they do not believe. He has to find arguments for the existence of the soul, and does so, feeling as though he were "hanging upside down". Everything goes topsy-turvy. His mother, a country vicar's wife, has joined the women's suffrage movement. The cows in the Cambridge meadows, derided by a gale, lie on their backs exposing their vast, pale bellies.

with willow-branches tangled in their horns.

There is a mystery, too, about the accident. The man driving the cart that nearly ran them over, and a third bicyclist, have disappeared. A paleontologist who also writes ghost stories — just one of the dotty, authentic-sounding dosses who inhabit Ms Fitzgerald's Edwardian Cambridge — comes up with the fact that there was a medieval nursery on the spot where it happened, and tells a horrific tale of what the nuns did to the bishop's envoy sent to close them down. An old hag is seen and voices heard on the spot at night;

maybe ghostly nuns have dispatched the carter and the third cyclist?

Fred is a junior fellow of St Angelicus, known as Angels — a 15th century college so small that no undergraduates live in, or eat in Hall — a nuclear college, one might say. In the inner court is a walnut tree — an old variety, specified as *Cornet du Périgord* (another example of how everything in this book, which is about the unobservable, is precise and observed). Round and round the walnut tree walks the master of the college, who is blind. If the reader is vaguely reminded of the limerick:

There was once a man who said  
"God  
Must think it exceedingly odd  
If he finds that this tree  
Continues to be  
When there's no one about in the  
Quad"

then it is probably no coincidence; the rhyme is by Ronald Knox, who was Ms Fitzgerald's uncle. She does not presume to pronounce on the "mind-body" problem, or problems of perception, or the existence of a fourth dimension. She chuckles notions around like ping-pong balls; her methods are flattery to the reader, who can finish this book in one long

afternoon, and emerge feeling amused, moved and intellectually activated but not bullied.

Obvious and rational explanations emerge for all the mysteries. But in their very obviousness they seem insufficient. And what about the glorious coincidence that brings Fred and Daisy together on the last page? The college has two ways in — the main gate, through which everyone passes, and a narrow one, which has only opened three times in all its history. The mistake we make, maybe, is thinking that there is only one explanation for what we are and what happens to us.

THE 1958 film *Night of the Demon* is one of the best supernatural chillers ever made, charting Dana Andrews's progress from sceptic to quailing believer. The screenplay was adapted from a story by M.R. James, and Christopher Fowler acknowledges the debt in the introduction to *Rune*. Style and content are far removed from those of the Cambridge antiquary, but Mr Fowler has updated his runic curse, with ancient magic augmented by modern marketing methods.

Mr Fowler kicks off with a doomed man fleeing through Soho, and thereafter the pace barely lets up. The author, a Londoner, manages to cover a fair whack of A-Z territory and send up a few trendy media folk en route to the final showdown. Unusually, the good guys are every bit as entertaining as the bad: a couple of eccentric detectives and a punky girl truck driver are among those who take on the might of a malevolent multinational corporation.

This is a ripping read which provides the occasional unsettling idea, such as the flat which has had all straight edges obliterated from its interior so that no one can sneak a runic hex past its frightened occupant. But why does it take so long for the runes to be recognised as such? Doesn't anyone read Tolkien any more?

James Herbert is this country's best-selling author of horror fiction, having made his name with titles such as *The Rats* and *The Fog*. With *Creed*, Mr Herbert has attempted a change of tack: parts of this novel are virtually a documentary description of the art of the Fleet Street photographer, stalking Jack Nicholson or lying in wait for Woody Allen. Herbert's hero is an unsavoury snapper who takes one photograph too many at an actress's funeral and finds himself pursued by demons who want the negs destroyed. There's too much arch authorial interpolation ("Time to interrupt for a very sketchy rundown on our hero's career...") but it is an amusing idea executed in knockabout style.

Stephen Laws's first three books were set in his native northeast, but *The Frighteners* is set in and around a tinfoil city which may or may not be London. He tackles an ambitious plot involving a smalltime jailbird who becomes literally infected with the essence of evil, isolated and distilled in a government research lab. The possessed punk avenges himself on the mobsters who killed his family by creating whirling djinns out of wastepaper and broken glass, but things get out of hand, of course, and events turn apocalyptic. Mr Laws has not quite got the measure of such a broad canvas, but writes well.

The information that *The Werewolves of London* is the final part of a trilogy would normally be enough to make me run a mile, but Brian Stableford is one of the more inventive and original writers working today. This book is set in 1872 and starts off in Egypt, where a party of Victorian gentlemen encounter snakes, sphinxes and wolves. The hero gets bitten and has weird dreams, while — back to London — a Crowley-style Satanicist intrigues against the city's werewolf population. Dense, historical, almost pompous prose, packed with eccentric digressions on Immanuel Kant, theology and the Victorian class system.

**Saturday Review**  
Ego centre  
Vienna in the Thirties was full of culture-heroes, about to be swamped by history. Anthony Quinlan assesses Elias Canetti's vivid portrait

## Observations of the absurd

## PAPERBACKS

Lesley Chamberlain

CLOSELY OBSERVED TRAINS  
By Bohumil Hrabal  
Abacus, £5.99

I SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND  
By Bohumil Hrabal  
Picador, £5.99

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE DEAD  
By Bohumil Hrabal  
Faber, £6.99

chosen to inseminate an Aryan maiden. But here the narrative turns and Dritie awakes. By a series of fantastic and sometimes happy rever-

sals, he ends up sharing an idyllic existence with a few animals in a cage of mirrors. He is at last his own man. Mr Hrabal's mixture of violence, cruelty and easily dazzled senses shows human dignity undone but repairable.

The Encyclopedia of the Dead, Danilo Kis's thematically linked short story collection published in Yugoslavia in 1983, is inferior to *Garden, Ashes*, his early biographical novel, and *A Tomb for Boris Davidovich*. It comprises nine stories mixing fact and fiction in a repeated concern with the nature of identity. The various assemblages of reports, book references, rumours, quotations, family gossip, letters and dreams show human knowledge to be musty and inaccurate compared with how in the title story — the divinity might see the infinite detail and the mysterious resonances within a single life. Mr Kis was a dark, powerful writer, whose early death last year was a loss.

## Hell as other people

CRIME  
Lisanne Radice



A STONE OF THE  
HEART



By John Brady  
Penguin, £3.99

DEAD BY MORNING  
By Dorothy Simpson  
Sphere, £3.50

CHAIN  
By Desmond Lowden  
BBC, £3.99

The fresh corpse of the victim, last seen 20 years ago, is found in a ditch covered with snow outside the gates of his ancestral home. As Thonet explores the circumstances of this death he stumbles upon an astonishing number of possible suspects. Questioning the kind of society which lies at the heart of the crime, Thonet reluctantly pursues what is, for him, an unhappy and questionable denouement.

Chain explores the world of fraud and the seriously rich. Crown Prosecutor Michael Cassidy is caught up in a society where success is measured in the amount of sharp deals satisfactorily accomplished, and enemies are dealt with by professional killers. Chain has lots of pace and drama, as well as an acute social critique. However, its impact is weakened by the episodic nature of the writing which allows no character to develop fully, a fault no doubt due to the book's origin as a BBC serial.

Telling tales  
out of school

ACCORDING to Molesworth, "Skool is a bit of a shambles", so he would probably have felt at home in Jaci Stephen's secondary modern. But the various "swots, bullies, cissies, milksops, greedy gits and oiks" that made his days in the playground so disagreeable are here more likely to be found in the staff room.

Definitions of a House is a step-by-step guide to a year in the life of a provincial comprehensive. Inspired by Grindin's putdown in *Hard Times* ("Gift number twenty unable to define a house"), Ms Stephen takes the equestrian categories of training, grooming, feed and exercise to cast an ironic, generally disparaging light on the ins and outs of the school timetable. Riverside is a disturbing place, about as unpleasant as semolina. Kenneth Salmon, the headmaster, starts off abominably regretting his sexual incapacity and ends by pacing the school grounds in his pyjamas. New boys are apt to get run over by the school bus. The people in whom parents place their trust spend their time bickering over the pros and cons of a new photocopyer.

Definitions of a

HOUSE  
By Jaci Stephen  
Hutchinson, £12.99

THOSE IN PERIL  
By Nicolas Freeling  
Andre Deutsch, £11.99

MATILDA'S MISTAKE  
By Ann Oakley  
Virago, £12.99

smiling, "Hand open". Much of it feels like the briefest of stage directions. This is a tough read, but strangely soft at heart.

The heart is

just one of the

organs that bring

down Ann Oakley's heroine in *Matilda's Mistake*.

Matilda

Cressey is, to all

intents and pur-

poses, a paragon of efficiency,

cutting a swathe through the hopeless

chancery at the Office of Consumer

Affairs where she works (as presi-

dent). Her friends she treats with

organised affection, her boyfriend

with matter-of-fact contempt.

Everything in her life is neatly

systematised — until she meets

Steven van den Biot.

If you thought Steven van den

Biot was the sort of name no one

ever has, outside novels, you

would be right. It is in fact a *false*

name and the reason behind the

pretence, along with mysterious

goings on at his alternative birth

centre, galvanise Matilda's watch-

dog organisation into action.

Their investigation, however,

is complicated by Steven's charisma.

The fact that babies appear to be

unaccountably dying and dodgy

burial rites performed is very

nearly swept under the cover of

the natural natal swimming pool.

Here as in her bestselling *The*

*Men's Room*, Ms Oakley fiddles

with the knots of sexual

relationships. But the novel soars

laughably into flights of romantic

fantasy — Steven whisking Matilda

off to the piercing snow and inter-

connecting hotel rooms of Fin-

land, and the humours of doctors

up to their pinsriped knees in

chlorine is soon lost. While the

book is an educative process, it is a

downward one. Babies and high

IQs, it seems, do not mix.

Ripping  
runic  
read

## HORROR

Anne Billson

## RUNE

By Christopher Fowler  
Century, £7.50

## CREED

By James Herbert  
Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95

## THE FRIGHTENERS

By Stephen Laws  
Sourcen Press, £14.95

THE WEREWOLVES  
OF LONDON

By Brian Stableford  
Simon & Schuster, £14.95

Academic Year  
Diary £3.50

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## BUSINESS

THURSDAY AUGUST 23 1990

City Editor  
John Bell

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- DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 25
- SPORT 26-30

## BICC is still keen to build rail link

BICC has no interest in a minority stake in PowerGen, the electricity generating company being privatised, but is still keen to build the fast rail link from London to the Channel Tunnel, despite an apparent lack of interest from the government, Robin Biggam, the chief executive, said.

The construction-to-cables group was announcing pre-tax profits ahead from £23 million to £100 million in the six months to end-June, and an interim dividend increased from 5.75p to 6p, in line with the dividend forecast made at the time of the convertible rights issue last month.

The group saw a slowdown in its British housebuilding and property activities and in Australasia, but cables in Britain and North America performed well while the British contracting and engineering businesses had order books 6 per cent higher than a year ago.

BICC has been helped by the privatisation of the power industry, with volumes from that side of the business up 10 per cent year-on-year as Treasury spending controls are relaxed, and has been mentioned as a possible shareholder in any management buyout of PowerGen. But Mr Biggam said the company had no interest in a minority stake that did not bring with it any management control.

It was still keen to build the fast Channel tunnel rail link, through an Eurotunnel joint venture with Trafalgar House.

Temps, page 21

### Rentokil ahead

Rentokil, the pest control and tropical plant group, continues to fulfil its promise of achieving 20 per cent growth, with pre-tax profits for the six months ended June of £34.5 million against £28 million in turnover of £149.1 million (£133.3 million). Further growth is expected in the second half, the board says. The interim dividend rises from 8.65p to 1.06p.

Temps, page 21

### THE MARKET

US dollar 1.9275 (+0.0065)  
W German mark 2.9934 (+0.0034)  
Exchange index 95.9 (+0.1)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1822.5 (+6.8)  
FT-SE 100 2104.8 (-3.3)  
New York Dow Jones 2583.42 (-20.54)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 25210.91 (-106.93)

Closing Prices ... Page 23

### Major indices and major changes Page 22

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%  
3-month Interbank: 15.14%  
3-month eligible bills: 14.14%  
US: Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 7.5%  
3-month Treasury Bills 7.55%  
30-year bonds 9.72%  
9.72%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York:  
£ 51.9275 \$ 1.9281  
£ 12M 2.9934 \$ 2.9934  
£ 1M 1.9275 \$ 1.9275  
£ FT 10.0751 \$ 1.9457  
£ Yen 281.13 Yen 145.75  
£ Index: 95.9 Index: 63.1  
ECU 5.00 68.9388 SDR 1.722018  
£ ECU 1.45109 SDR 1.385007

### GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$410.00 pm \$408.75  
close \$410.25-410.75 (212.75-  
213.25)  
New York: Comex \$409.60-410.10\*

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) ... \$29.65/bbl (\$29.00)  
\* Denotes latest trading price

### TOURIST RATES

	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.46	2.50
Austria Sch	21.90	20.80
Belgium Fr	2.15	2.15
Canada \$	1.251	1.131
Denmark Kr	7.40	7.00
France Fr	10.47	9.87
Germany Dm	3.91	3.95
Greece Dr	1.65	1.65
Hong Kong \$	15.55	14.65
Ireland Pt	1.185	1.088
Italy Lira	265.50	275.50
Netherlands Gld	3.495	3.305
Norway Kr	12.12	11.42
Portugal Esc	9.75	9.25
Spain Pes	5.10	4.80
Sweden Kr	15.45	15.00
Switzerland Fr	11.49	10.87
United Lira	520	480
USA \$	2.015	1.905
Yugoslavia Dinar	25.00	18.00

Notes for small denominations bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 125.8 (Aug)

OS

## Soaring fuel costs raise concern over Dan-Air

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN was growing last night over Dan-Air, the troubled charter airline, after the recent rises in fuel prices and the sharp decline in charter holiday bookings.

The share price of Davies & Newman, the parent company, was static at 355p compared with 575p in June when it was hoped a takeover could be arranged.

Dan-Air, Britain's second largest charter airline with 51 aircraft, has been badly affected by rising fuel

costs and this summer's decline in package holidays. This was compounded this week by the decision of Airtours, Britain's fourth biggest tour operator, to form its own airline.

Dan-Air had the equivalent of five aircraft committed to Airtours to operate out of Stansted, Manchester, and Birmingham, but now seems likely to lose this important customer. Airtours could still use two Dan-Air jets next summer despite its new airline, the creation of which is

certain to lead to further cutbacks at Dan-Air.

Already it has announced plans to dispose of five jets including an Airbus A300 and is expected to cut its fleet by another four aircraft over the next few weeks. At the same time, the company is closing its main London office and transferring 150 staff who work there to Horley, Surrey, to consolidate its operations close to Gatwick airport.

Dan-Air does not have its own tour operator on whom it can rely

to provide passengers for its aircraft while its rivals — such as Britannia and Air Europe can rely on Thomson and ILG to fill seats.

This means Dan-Air has to fight for business where it can find it, in a market which looks as if it is heading towards recession.

Although increased fuel costs in charter operations — which have already added about £1 per passenger for every hour a jet is in the air — can be passed on to the tour operator, scheduled services have either to bear the brunt or increase

fares and so reduce still further the demand for seats.

Again Dan-Air has been more severely affected by the fuel price rise than other airlines because of the poor fuel efficiency of many of its older aircraft. The airline has 12 Boeing 727 and 17 BAC 1-11s in its fleet, all of which are extremely heavy on fuel compared with the quiet, fuel-efficient modern jets flown by many of its rivals.

The airline owns many of the older aircraft, which now have a low residual value, but has leased

the more valuable newer jets in its fleet, such as the three Boeing 737-400s and four BAE 146s.

Fred Newman, chairman of Davies & Newman, is recognised as one of the shrewdest men in the business and, despite the problems, the company remains confident the proposed cut-backs and reorganisation will see it through.

Mr Newman, together with his three most senior executives, yesterday went to the Civil Aviation Authority to meet officials. It was, they said, "a routine meeting".

## Trade deficit in surprise leap to £1.4bn

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S trade gap widened last month against expectations, boosting the current account deficit from £1.26 billion to £1.39 billion. Analysts said the Treasury's forecast of a £1.5 billion deficit for the year was now

received by the City though they had little effect on foreign exchange or stock markets, which were more worried about the confrontation in the Gulf. Sterling closed up 0.1 on its trade-weighted index at 95.9, up 65 points against the dollar at \$1.9275 and 34 points higher at DM2.9934.

Stephen Hannan of County NatWest said: "If one takes into account that the figures were helped by a favourable revision to the invisibles and an improvement in the terms of trade, they are not very encouraging. The combination of a high exchange rate and high wage growth is just not on: something has to give."

Exports last month fell by 3.2 per cent to £8.28 billion and imports were 2 per cent lower at £9.97 billion, leaving a trade deficit of £1.69 billion. In the light of the Pink Book figures, the estimated surplus on invisibles has been revised upwards from £200 million a month to £300 million in the April-July period.

The figures were published against a background of faster-than-expected growth of 2.4 per cent in the second quarter.

Detailed figures for the balance of payments in 1989 were also published yesterday in the Central Statistical Office's annual Pink Book. An upward revision from £4.05 billion to £4.71 billion in the estimated surplus on invisibles last year was offset by higher imports, leaving the current account deficit for 1989 little changed at £1.91 billion.

The trade data were poorly

Underlying trends in Britain's trade stayed relatively favourable. The volume of exports in the past three months, excluding oil and erratic items, rose 2 per cent on the previous three months and 9.5 per cent on the same period last time. Imports on the same basis rose 1 per cent on three months earlier and 2 per cent on a year earlier.

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade secretary, said: "The higher-than-expected deficit at £1.4 billion — and a huge £10.25 billion for the year so far — combined with the grim OECD forecasts, means that interest rates will remain high for industry and homeowners for many months to come, and shows a British economy near the bottom of the European league for trade as well as interest rates, inflation, growth and investment."

The Pink Book shows last year's current account deficit financed by identified net capital inflows of £4 billion and a balancing item, representing errors and omissions in the figures, of £15.13 billion. The size of the balancing item in recent years "must throw doubt on the quality of the figures", says the CSO.

Trends in invisible trade include a rise in the surplus on services from £4.5 billion in 1988 to £4.7 billion last year, a fall in the surplus on interest, profits and dividends from £5 billion to £4.6 billion and a wider deficit on transfers of £4.6 billion against £3.5 billion. Within services, sea transport had a small surplus for the first time since 1980.

Wall Street, closing 3.3 lower at 2,104.8. Although American dealers remain very nervous about events in the Middle East, there is growing concern about the American economy and the impact of a recession on American shares.

Gold closed \$3.50 lower at \$410.50 an ounce in London.

Silver moved in sympathy, closing 4p down at 267.25p.

Stock markets, page 22

## Rally runs out of steam

By MATTHEW BOND

LONDON shares made a brave attempt at a rally yesterday, after Tuesday's 50-point losses on both sides of the Atlantic. By midday the FT-SE 100 index was up 18 points, with brokers reporting signs of bargain hunting.

But as Wall Street opened flat and moved lower, London's rally faded. London spent the afternoon tracking

they have yet to receive. Lowndes is believed to have had sales of £5 million to £6 million a week, before the receivership.

The insurance policy was put in place by Norman Ireland, an ex-BTR finance director who was the Lowndes chairman before receivership.

Mr Phillips said the total level of claims would not be known for several weeks.

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The self-imposed deadlines on decisions over the sale of PowerGen are becoming ever more embarrassing. Lord Hanson is still expected to put in some sort of firm offer for Britain's number two source of electricity by the end of this week, although that is no longer the certainty it seemed when the idea was dreamt up a few weeks ago. Any bid will be made, and its level no doubt prudently discounted, against a fast-changing background.

Share prices have crumbled in response to tensions in the Gulf. They have fallen so fast that virtually any serious offer is likely to be treated as a better bet than a flotation, even though the government's most canny City advisers can have little idea what the international stock market climate will be like in six months time, when PowerGen was originally scheduled to be sold to the public alongside National Power.

The Gulf crisis has also thrown energy prices into confusion. By definition, no clear analysis is possible of the relation between oil, gas and international coal

prices until it is known whether the effects are short term or long term. Tactically, the generators are at present in a strong position because of their reliance on British coal. Their strategies of switching to imported coal and gas, partly to spread risk, should sensibly be shelved for the moment.

For Hanson, there must be additional doubts over whether European rules would permit him to engage freely in trading arrangements between PowerGen and Peabody, its North American coal producer. Since the government is trying to encourage competition in sourcing as much as any other part of the industry's operations, these must be doubts in the energy department too.

Some other industrial groups interested in PowerGen, not just the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, also have strong commercial incentives for a link with PowerGen. Management

has to think carefully before including them in a management buyout.

There seems little reason to insist, as John Wakeham, the energy secretary, apparently does, that the PowerGen sale should be fixed up in good time before the scheduled sale of the distribution companies in November. Indeed, the more important priority may soon be whether, in the interests of taxpayers, that ought to go ahead unless markets swiftly recover.

### Still growing

A quick reading of yesterday's economic data suggests a depressingly familiar picture. Economic growth in the second quarter has turned out rather stronger than expected at

about 2½ per cent year on year, while the latest trade figures show a bigger deficit than the City pundits were forecasting.

The hope must be that we are looking at history rather than contemporary events. Indications so far during the third quarter suggest that the economy really is beginning to slow down and probably quite rapidly. Recent figures for retail sales, new car registrations and the money supply, as well as business opinion all point to slackening demand.

This may take a month or two to be reflected in the balance of payments, but in due course import growth should slow further.

Underlying trends are still pointing in the right direction. The volume of exports excluding oil and erratic items in the 3

months to July was 9½ per cent higher than a year earlier, compared with import growth on the same basis of only 2 per cent. For manufacturers, the comparison is even more flattering at 11 per cent against 1½ per cent.

The question is whether exports can keep up the sort of growth they have been showing earlier this year. On that score, the latest figures are not particularly reassuring. The volume of exports in July taken on its own has fallen quite sharply, raising the fear that higher sterling is gradually beginning to take its toll on exporters, many of whom are already facing sharply rising pay bills.

### Phoney War

The uneasy truce between Britain's leading textile groups, Tootal and Coats Viyella, looks to be entering its final days. The two, who not so

long ago had grand plans for a merger, have fallen out of love with the idea. And Tootal is bracing itself for a fresh move by Coats, which still retains its 29.9 per cent shareholding, bought from the Australian Abe Goldberg.

Yesterday's news that Cha Ching, a Hong Kong businessman who has traded with Tootal, has increased his shareholding to 4.4 per cent is not easy to read. It may be that he is helping to boost Tootal's defences against a new bid, or that he senses a profit either way. The Tootal camp feels that Coats' shrewd chairman, David Alliance, is awaiting interim figures early in October before launching a bid. In view of the troubled state of the textiles market and the sharp recent movements in sterling, Mr Alliance would be wise to see the whites of Tootal's eyes first. But the key point for shareholders is that Tootal is ready for a fight. The board now feels that it has a clear strategy for success as an independent company based on streamlined, highly efficient operations and sourcing its needs from low cost, overseas suppliers.

TOKYO'S stock market is an arena for superlatives. It is the largest in the world, has the most expensive shares, sporting the lowest dividend yields, and until this year enjoyed the most sustained bull market. Now it is breaking records again – on the way down.

The collapse in Japanese share prices since the start of the year defies imagination. The Nikkei average has lost more than 35 per cent of its value since its high on December 29 last year. Half that decline has occurred since the invasion of Kuwait.

The fall looks likely to continue. Before yesterday, when the index hit 25,211 in its ninth largest fall ever, analysts and brokers had hoped for support around 26,000.

Now that has been breached, observers see little chance of halting the decline, notwithstanding brief rallies, until the index hits 21,500, the low seen in the 1987 crash. The market could accomplish such a fall with ease if the situation in the Gulf worsens.

The trigger for the latest fall may have been the Kuwait invasion and the rise in oil prices. But even though Japan imports all its oil, economists agree the inflationary impact of the rise will be slight.

But what started the slide at the turn of the year was the rise in Japanese interest rates. In December, the Nikkei rose 3,000 to almost 39,000 on ill-founded hopes of a decline in world rates. Since then, however, the official discount rate has risen from 3.75 to 5.25 per cent. Japanese certificates of deposit are yielding 8 per cent, discounting a further official rate increase of as much as 1 per cent.

The interest rate rise and the fall in bond prices has affected the bond futures market, in turn feeding through to equity futures.

If London or New York were hit as hard, there would be safety nets under every window and brokers would be wearing bullet-proof vests as a protection against upset clients. But in Tokyo, few are disturbed. The ministry of finance says it is not worried about the fall in prices.

There has been remarkably

## Tokyo share price tremors rattle world of banking



Sign of the times: a trader trying to sell yesterday

little activity on the stock market since the Kuwait invasion. Equity turnover is about Y300 billion (£1.04 billion) a day, Y200 billion lower than normal. The large institutional shareholders are sitting tight, and a trade of 10,000 to 15,000 can push down a share price.

"In the past, there have always been people jumping out of windows when the market has fallen," said Yoshishige

NEIL BENNETT  
Banking Correspondent

Hashimoto, an analyst at Daiwa Europe. "Or the fall has been caused by some great scandal. But not this time."

Yesterday, the Japanese securities houses felt confident enough to launch five Eurobonds issues with attached equity warrants worth a total \$1 billion, including ones for Kobe Steel and Kawasaki Heavy. This contrasts with their decision to impose a moratorium on new issues in March, after the market fell at the start of the year, which was only lifted in July.

Despite the optimism, Japan cannot play down the long-term effects of the share fall, particularly among the banks. Until this year, Japan's big commercial banks, including Dai-Ichi Kangyo, the world's largest, have been able to support aggressive loan-book expansion with regular equity issues and the backing of their huge share portfolios. Now that growth is under threat.

Under Bank for International Settlements guidelines, banks' broad capital base must not be less than 8 per cent of risk-weighted assets. Capital can include 45 per cent of unrealised share gains.

The share collapse hits the banks doubly. Not only does it erode their capital base, but it prevents them from issuing new equity at realistic prices to prop it up. Japanese insurance companies, the main holders of bank shares, have made clear they will sell old shares if they are forced to buy new ones, and the ministry of finance is unlikely to sanction any new issues until year-end.

The effects will be felt around the world. The Japanese banks have been the pillar of project finance in the past five years. Without their funds, construction sites will stand idle and companies will have to curtail investment.

Euromut, which depends on the Japanese banks for almost a quarter of its debt finance, has already revealed its debt-raising problems. It is unlikely to be the last casualty.

NEIL BENNETT  
Banking Correspondent

Leading article, page 9

has been operating for only a year. Volumes here average Y1,800 billion, six times the underlying equity business. While share portfolios are dwindling in value, many investors are limiting the damage by hedging in futures.

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NEIL BENNET

## STOCK MARKET

# Chartists hope to flush out bargain buyers once again

By MATTHEW BOND

WITH the American market eventually trimming Tuesday's fall to 52 points, London decided that its 48-point fall was overdone in the absence of any genuine reports of military action in the Gulf.

As a result, shares opened higher and by midday the FTSE 100 index had risen by more than 18 points. However, as it became clear that Wall Street was going to open flat at best, London's rally ran out of steam.

Buyers remained largely on the sidelines with only 333 million shares changing hands. By the close, the FTSE 100 index stood 3.3 lower at 2,104.8. What bargain hunting there was appeared to be in the larger companies, with the FTSE 30 closing 9.9 points up at 1,625.6. At the longer end, shares rose by close to three-quarters of a point.

The chart shows that over the past year there has been clear support for FTSE 100 stocks at 2,100. Twice in the past 12 months the market has fallen to that level, only to rise again quickly. Could it happen a third time?

With the index sliding towards that level again, dealers reported some tentative signs of buying, despite the continuing uncertainties in the Middle East. However, without some positive signal from the American market, buyers in

London are likely to remain few and far between.

While they wait for that signal, domestic economic indicators, such as July's £1.39 billion trade deficit, are likely to be ignored.

Brent Walker was on the way down again, still reflecting disappointment that the company's 50 per cent stake in the Trocadero had not yet been sold. The shares, at one point, fell 9p to 193p, before recovering to 198p, 4p down on the day.

George Walker, the Brent Walker chairman, is still successfully making smaller disposals. He has just sold a 12-acre block from the group's

Shares in Toetel, the textile group, rose 2p to 75p, following the announcement that Chia Chi-ning was the beneficial owner of a 4.4 per cent stake. Mr Chia is a Hong Kong businessman and is controlling shareholders in China Dye Works.

Elstree film complex to Tesco for £19 million. Brent Walker bought the 32-acre film studio in two deals worth a total of £33 million, so the disposal recoups a large proportion of the outlay and reduces the cost of holding one of Britain's best known film studios.

Among the big shares bouncing back was Resters, which before yesterday's ses-

sion had lost 250 points in

four days on profit downgrades, worried about new systems and the lack of confidence in America. Reassuring words appear to have been muttered to key brokers, stopping the rot for now. The shares improved 30p to 789p.

WPP Group, owner of J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather, the advertising agencies, and another big casualty in recent days, also showed renewed signs of life, adding 14p to 478p. Sasechi & Sasechi, on the other hand, fell 2p to 59p.

For the few buyers around, it was a day for the big stocks, with a number of brokers' buy circulars moving share prices upwards. GEC, the electronics company, rose 5.5p to 184p, helped by the recommenda-

tion of James Capel, BTR added 3p to 347p with the help of Hoare Govett.

However, the approval of Kleinwort Benson did little to help Guinness, which has been hit recently by worries over the performance of LVMH, its 24 per cent owned subsidiary, and shareholder. After jumping to 638p on KBS's raised current year profit forecast, the shares ran back to close 4p lower at 646p.

ICI moved 8p higher at one point, before losing all its gains to close unchanged at 901p. But on the way down, on worries about international currency exposure were Glaxo, down 3p to 697p, Wellcome, 5p lower at 450p and SmithKline Beecham, 3.5p up at 509p.

The news that Commercial Union had a 4.12 per cent

See main listing for Water shares

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MAJOR INDICES

MAJOR FUND MANAGERS

MAJOR UNIT TRUST MANAGERS

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**STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES****Seeking support**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 20. Dealings end September 7. Contango day September 10. Settlement day September 17. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 21)

No.	Company	Class	Gain or Loss
1	Tay Homes	Building Roads	
2	Vaux Group	Breweries	
3	BTR (a)	Industries A-D	
4	Thetford Johnson	Building Roads	
5	Scot & New (a)	Breweries	
6	Lucas (a)	Motor/Aircraft	
7	Woodside	Oil/Gas	
8	Dawson	Textiles	
9	Total	Textiles	
10	Cotts Vrinda (a)	Drapery/Stores	
11	Norsons	Drapery/Stores	
12	Erskine Har	Industries E-H	
13	Marks Spencer (a)	Drapery/Stores	
14	Arcticic	Building Roads	
15	Boots (a)	Industries A-D	
16	Br Airways (a)	Transport	
17	Thames Water	Water	
18	LASMO (a)	Oil/Gas	
19	Vickers	Industries E-Z	
20	Pendragon	Motor/Aircraft	
21	Gt Western Res	Oil/Gas	
22	MB Group (a)	Industries I-R	
23	Fisons (a)	Industries E-K	
24	Amet	Breweries	
25	Manfield	Breweries	
26	Hawke Safety (a)	Drapery/Stores	
27	Newmarket (Lons)	Industries E-K	
28	Telxon Manthey	Electronics	
29	Trinity Ind	Industries E-K	
30	Grecian (a)	Newspapers/Pub	
31	Delta	Building Roads	
32	Mecca	Electronics	
33	Barratt Devs	Building Roads	
34	EMAP	Newspapers/Pub	
35	Transport Dev	Transport	
36	Johnstones	Industries E-K	
37	Hastens	Drapery/Stores	
38	Grecian King	Breweries	
39	Hambros	Bank/Finance	
40	Yorkshire Water	Water	
41	Cairn Energy	Oil/Gas	
42	Woolsey	Industries E-Z	
43	Roschang	Property	
44	Seetley	Building Roads	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily News	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

The winner of the £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday was Mr Eric Stokes, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

**BRITISH FUNDS**

	1989	1990	Int. Gross yield	Net value	Price Change
SHORTS (Under Five Years)					
975 835 Each	25%	1800	25	11,410	
976 835 Each	25%	1800	25	10,600	
977 835 Each	25%	1800	25	10,600	
978 835 Each	25%	1800	25	10,600	
979 835 Each	25%	1800	25	10,600	
980 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
981 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
982 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
983 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
984 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
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1011 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
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1053 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
1054 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
1055 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
1056 835 Each	25%	1800	25	12,404	
1057 835 Each	25%	1800	25</td		

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Excellent opportunities

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The Times continues its countdown to the opening of the football season

# World Cup adds fuel to a boom

By PETER BALL

IN THE aftermath of England's World Cup success, English football is not so much quietly confident as buzzing with anticipation as it prepares for the start of the new season on Saturday.

"The League game is very buoyant at the present time," Andy Williamson, the Football League's assistant secretary, said. "It has been stimulated by England's showing in the World Cup, but it was already very much on an upward trend, which started four years ago.

"Hopefully, that success in Italy, along with other things, such as the return to Europe, should stimulate interest at the top of the first division, giving added incentive there. The changes in the play-offs because of the switch back to a 22-club first division in 1991-92 should provide added interest lower down, so we should be going into the season in a very optimistic frame of mind."

Five years ago, in the wake of Heysel, with attendances on a downward curve and an unsympathetic government demanding action, such an attitude would have been inconceivable. Football's problems looked intractable, and the prophets of doom hovered, offering their patent medicines — breakaway super leagues, regionalised part-time third and fourth divisions, no third or fourth divisions, etc — as the only cures for the sick game.

But from the nadir of 1985-6, when gates reached a post-war low of 16,498,826, the improvement has been consistent. The hated and feared government identity card scheme has been seen

unpopular, and press, sentiment has swung back football's way; sponsorship and television money has begun to pour in in unprecedented amounts, and attendances have continued to rise, in spite of (because of?) the reduction in the size of the first division, which gave a projected loss of approximately 700,000 customers over a season.

Last year's aggregate reached 19,466,826, almost one million up on the previous year's total, and officials confidently expect it to pass the 20 million mark in the coming season for the first time since 1981-2. Another rise would make it the first time in the competition's history that the aggregate attendance has shown an increase for five consecutive years. And that is not all, because whatever one thinks about the return to a 22-club first division, or its long-term effect, in the short term that alone should guarantee another increase the following season.

Meanwhile, the old BBC and ITV cartel having been broken, the League will receive more than £17 million in television fees this season, while sponsorship money to the League and the 92 clubs should exceed last year's total of £25 million. And this was before the World Cup success, and the return to Europe, added an extra gloss on the product. That it has done so cannot be doubted. Last week, more than 20,000 turned up at Tyneside to see Heart of Midlothian play Tottenham, a crowd. Rangers or Hibernian struggle to draw on their visits.

How is football going to exploit this opportunity? At the very least, one would think a quick advertising campaign to be run as appropriate on television on Friday evenings, starring "Gazza", David Platt, Des Walker?

Nothing so brash, at least for the moment, although it may happen later. The League is "looking at the logistics and cost of a television advertising campaign," Arthur Sandford, the chief executive, said, "but it would be picked up a little later in the season." Presumably, although Sandford did not say so, when the first flush of enthusiasm begins to wane.

Other long-term marketing is taking place. The amateur government membership scheme at least suggested the value and possibility of identifying the customers, and a League-backed scheme will

soon offer database facilities for the third and fourth division clubs, while bigger clubs, like Arsenal, are also eagerly investigating that area.

With a lively sense of merchandising, Arsenal have opened a massive sports retail store near their stadium offering a wide range of sports goods. But while all sections of the game are concerned that the product should retain its attractiveness on the field, most insist that "steady as she goes" rather than rash adventurism is the right approach.

"The World Cup has given us a stage," Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said. "A lot of things which were coming together have been crystallised by the World Cup, but there is a lot to do. What we have to do now is stress quality rather than quantity; quality of fixtures and performances, quality of stadiums, and indeed quality of administration — by which I mean taking a long-term view rather than a short-term one."

"If the response to the World Cup is just going to be spin-offs like selling Gazza T-shirts and organising even more domestic competitions it would be a terrible mistake.

After the success of the World Cup, when our players had shown they were capable of

of

matching the best for skill, for the League to then add more than ten per cent extra matches by going back to a 22-club first division is a backward step as it is.

"But the main priority must

still be a proper response to the tragedies of Hillsborough and Heysel, to expand the effort, time and money to

ensure that we have

prettily

already

done

well

# Dayjur to strengthen title claims

By MANDARIN

DAYJUR can underline his claims to be the country's leading sprinter by winning the Keeneland Nunthorpe Stakes at York this afternoon.

He first came to prominence when winning the Temple Stakes at Sandown in May, making all to beat Tugani by two lengths. Willie Carson's decision to adopt those tactics have been the making of Dayjur.

Previously Carson had tried to keep something in reserve, with varying degrees of success, but once he let Dayjur blaze the trail, the son of Danzig developed into a different proposition. The King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot went the same way, with Dayjur making almost all and comfortably holding off Ron's Victory by 2½ lengths.

Dayjur will again be prominent from the off this afternoon, and I can envisage him holding off his greatest rival, Argentum.



Carson: sure to adopt forcing tactics on Dayjur

After Argentum had won in fine style at Goodwood, Jack Holt, his trainer, jokingly suggested that Dayjur would make an ideal pacemaker for him at York. Although offered with tongue in cheek, Carson has taken the joke to heart and will be keener than ever to put what he sees as the pretender in his place.

Argentum was well behind Dayjur at Ascot although soft

ground there proved an insuperable obstacle. The faster the ground, the better for Argentum and, with the forecast set fair, he should not be inconvenienced by the ground. Whether the balance of his form is as solid as Dayjur's is rather more debatable, and it is Dayjur who gets the vote.

Pharoh's Delight, an outstanding two-year-old, was a good second at Deauville last week but still has something to find against the principals here, while Mr Nickerson, the American challenger, is clearly useful but is difficult to assess.

Carson can complete a double on Kaffiyah in the *Pace-maker Update* Lowther Stakes. She was hampered when ½ lengths second to Ivory Bride at Newbury last month and, although she meets Ivory Bride on the same terms here, she would probably have won at Newbury given a clear run.

However, for the nap I look to Madame Dubois, one of

Henry Cecil's three runners in the Gallois Stakes. She ran on strongly to beat the highly-regarded Stapleford Manor over ten furlongs at Newbury and looks likely to be even better suited by the extra two furlongs here.

Two of her greatest rivals, Madriya and Secret Waters, may not be as well suited by the trip. Madriya has given the impression that she would be more at home over a mile and a quarter while Secret Waters was successful over a mile and three-quarters last time.

The City Of York Stakes offers Lord Charmer an excellent opportunity to re-establish his reputation. After a highly impressive debut at Newmarket, he moved up in class to tackle group one company in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, won by Distant Relative.

That proved too stiff a task — although the fast ground may have been against him — but in this lower grade he can

show once again that he is a horse with a future.

The Bradford & Bingley Handicap is, as ever, a competitive contest. However, Sayyara catches the eye. She was an impressive winner of a maiden at Newmarket and then ran well for a long way in the Jersey Stakes at Royal Ascot. A half-sister to the good miler, Safawan, she may have more scope than most of her rivals.

Michael Stoute, the trainer of Sayyara, should also be on the mark at Yarmouth with Caspian Beluga in the Wellington Pier Maiden Stakes.

The form of his second to Regal Sabre at Newmarket last month should be good enough.

Timeless Times returns to action in the Nighfall Stakes at Salisbury's evening meeting, but he may find the Goodwood winner, Polish Patriot, too strong for him.

## Blinkered first time

2000-445 Cat To Arms. YARMOUTH: 2000-445 One Seven. Marjons 3.55. S. G. Carson. Wolfgang. SALISBURY: 2000-445 C. King. 100-30.

# Further Flight pulls off Ebor gamble for Hills

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

BARRY Hills, the master of Manion, landed a major betting coup when Further Flight stormed home to a ½-length victory over Bean King in the Ebor at York yesterday.

In the middle of the race as he struggled to form a syndicate to purchase the costly 2,500-acre Wilshire estate from Robert Sangster, the dapper 53-year-old professional was plainly savouring his moment of triumph as his son, Michael, rode the 7-1 joint-favourite into the unsaddling enclosure.

"Taken and wanted," said the trainer with a smile. "I've always liked to know what I've got in my yard and I've had this race in mind for a long time. It'll certainly keep the wolf from the door for a while."

Further Flight, previously an impressive winner of the Tennen Trophy at Ayr, is now likely to attempt to repeat the 1988 triumph of Nomadique in the Cesarewitch.

It was also a marvellous moment for the jockey, who promptly leapt his retainer with his father. "Oddly enough, taking the pressure off has given me a lot more confidence," he said.

"It's good to know that both my father and the owners want me. I got a marvellous run up the inner. The horse was always going sweetly but as usual dossed when he hit the front. I'm sure he'll stay further."

Further Flight is a son of Flying Nelly, the 1974 Cambridgeshire winner, who is 10 years old. Remarkably, Simon Wingfield has had the stallion breed the winner of the Chester Cup, the Ascot Stakes, and now the Ebor with Flying Light, Retouch and Further Flight.

Holy Zeal finished third, three-quarters of a length behind

Bean King. First Victory remained his only-way supporters by taking fourth place but Star Lord, the other 7-1 joint-favourite, weakened three furlongs from home to finish last.

If Steve Cauthen and Michael Roberts had stolen the limelight on the opening afternoon, then Willie Carson dominated proceedings yesterday. The jockey, who starts his second four-day suspension of the month on Wednesday, landed a sparkling treble on Hellenic, Mujahid and Majid.

Not for the first time, Waller Swinburn made the wrong choice when opting to ride

Seely's York treble. Michael Seely was in outstanding form at York yesterday, completing a 207-1 treble with Further Flight (7-1, nap), Silver Singing (5-1) and Hellenic (100-30).

Kartajana is preference in Hellenic in the Aston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks. But two furlongs from home, with Hellenic apparently laboring in last place, Michael Stoute stuck his horse to finish last.

The bookmakers retain Michael as their favourite for the 2,000-metre race, their prices varying from 7-1 (Corals) to 10-1 (Ladbrokes).

However, Robert Armstrong, previously the trainer of such fast horses as Moorestyle, Never So Bold and Shady Heights, was more than satisfied. "He's the best two-year-old I've trained. Above all, we want to keep him up too much in his races. His sire, Woodman, was very excitable and used to get stirred up before his races."

Carl Hodgson was taken to York District Hospital with head injuries after a fall from Between The Sticks in the Falmouth Handicap.

## SALISBURY

Selections

By Mandarin

5.30 NAVARQUE, 6.0 Pusey Street Boy. 6.30 Polish Patriot. 7.0 Take Heart. 7.30 Rentina. 8.0 Haredi.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

5.30 Future Gamble. 6.0 Dodgy. 6.30 Timeless Times. 7.0 Ajman. 7.30 Rentina.

Going: good to firm

Draw: high numbers best in sprints

5.30 WOODFORD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (22,721: 1m) (18 runners)

1-01 KEEP YOUR WORD 24 (D) G Balding 10-10

1-02 POLISH PATRICK 20 (F) G Harwood 9-5

1-03 CALIBRARI 22 (F) W O'Brien 8-11

1-04 GOLDEN RUSH 54 (FB) B McNamee 8-11

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1-06 ECHO LADY 34 (G) B Balding 8-6

1-07 11-3 TIMELESS TIMES 7-1 (Corals) J Seely 4-5

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South African cricket sees light at the end of the tunnel as the SACU and SACB agree to meet after 14 years of mutual distrust

# Durban peace talks to up the pace of unification process

By RICHARD STREETON

A SIGNIFICANT breakthrough in moves to unify South African cricket under one controlling body comes next month when the South African Cricket Union (SACU) and the non-white South African Cricket Board (SACB) are to hold preliminary talks about merging.

It will be the first constructive contact the two organisations have had in 14 years of inimical co-existence, and has the unanimous support of both sets of officials and the African National Congress.

Every aspect of South African cricket's future will be discussed when the two parties get together in Durban on September 8 for a meeting which could have crucial implications for international cricket.

For the English game, one offshoot is that Mike Gatting and the other members of last winter's unauthorised English team will not be returning to the republic in any capacity.

Gatting and his players, who signed two-year contracts committing them to the SACU, expected to hear later this month whether they had to return to South Africa to coach this winter. The SACU

has always said they would honour the contracts and that the players would be paid.

Although any question of a second tour was ruled out long ago, it was on the cards the players might have had in the black townships.

Once again, however, what was always an ill-advised venture has been overtaken by the speed with which political events have happened in South Africa. The names of Gatting and his players remain widely synonymous with civil unrest and racial tension.

Only recently, the SACU, conscious of the new climate as a start is made to dismantle apartheid, has firmly disengaged several provinces from approaching members of Gatting's team to play for them.

The new wave of inter-tribal strife has made it even more certain that it would be inadvisable for the English players to return, and the SACU will not want to risk any disruption of the delicate negotiations with the SACB.

Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of the SACU, declined to make any comment about Gatting and his

players yesterday, but confirmed that the meeting with the SACB had been arranged.

Bacher's personal view was that the negotiations would succeed and that it was possible the country's cricket administration could be restructured by the end of December, which is midway through the South African summer.

Asked if he would keep the International Cricket Council informed of developments, he said: "At the moment, South Africa's international future is the furthest thing from our minds. What is more important than anything else is to get our cricket in this country properly organised, with equal opportunities for all and with everybody sharing the sponsorships and facilities available."

This was the original aim when the SACU came into being in 1976-77 to govern cricket of all races but, within two months, the SACB was formed as a breakaway group, mainly for Indians and coloureds. Now, the mood in South Africa for unification in all sports could see cricket administrators fulfil their ambition.

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## Glamorgan unable to make capital

GLAMORGAN had an uphill struggle against a varied Sri Lankan attack and despite a fine opening partnership of 53 between Stephen James and Hugh Morris, who included seven fours in his 37, they could never capitalise at Ebbw Vale.

The combination of a switch of ends by Graeme Labrooy and the return of heavy cloud saw Glamorgan's fortunes change. Morris was caught behind by Hashan Tillakaratne off Labrooy for 37 and Tony Cotterell to Kapila Wijegunawardena lbw without scoring.

Labrooy made good use of the heavy conditions and after Mathew Maynard had four fours in a brisk 20 he was brilliantly caught at midwicket by Marvin Atapave.

Goff Holmes was soon to follow caught off his glove by Sanath Jayasuriya without scor-

ing. In the afternoon the pain-taking James continued to bat doggedly and was passed by partner Dale with their scores at 31.

Fall of wicket: 1-21. Extras: M J Harris and R Palmer.

• Sussex are releasing two bowlers, Andy Clarke, the leg spinner, and Andy Babington, the medium pacer. Clarke, aged 28, has a career in local government three years ago; Babington has played in only three first-class matches this season because of injury.

• Compiled by Richard Lockwood

M Frost not out  
Extras to 1. lb 6. w 1. nb 271 75

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FALL OF WICKET



# SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 23 1990

## Sponsors ensure that they make an impression



Latest score: an English Test match ground will submit to a new form of commercial intrusion today with the outfield at the Oval being marked with sponsors' logos for the final Cornhill Test between England and India. They measure eight metres by three and will be positioned roughly 30 yards behind the stumps at each end of the ground.

## Change of pace for Malcolm

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IF ANYONE still believes nothing ever changes in the game of cricket, he should come to The Oval today and see an English West Indian fast bowler charge in with glittering new stand behind him, gaudy commercial logo on the grass in front of him, and the opposition quoted at 8-1 to upset Graham Gooch's model army.

On and off the field, this has been a year of staggering progress for England. The game is making money, even if some of the means raise an eyebrow or two, and the national team nightmares of the recent past evidently forgotten, is actually making something of a habit of winning matches.

Today, in the final Cornhill Test of the season, they have the ideal showcase. The setting will be as ritzy as this corner of south London can ever have provided, always assuming yesterday's frantic decorating of the towering

new stand is actually completed in time, and the pitch will be the first this summer to meet the basic requirements of Test cricket.

Last weekend's downpour has restored a hint of greenness to the arid Oval outfield but has had no great effect on the pitch. Harry Brind, the head groundsman, is confident that it will be dry and true, which gives it a head start on all too many, but also relatively quick and bouncy.

News which Devon Malcolm has been awaiting all summer.

Way back in May, during the season's first round of one-day internationals, Malcolm bowled as fast and aggressive a spell as I have seen from an England bowler in years. According to John Wright, New Zealand's captain, who was on the receiving end, Malcolm that day was as hostile as anyone in the world.

It today's pitch is comparable, England start with an appreciable advantage. Malcolm can vent the frustrations of a man whose edge has been blunted by a sequence of dull,

slow pitches, on Indian batsmen whose recent relationships with genuine pace have been brief and acrimonious.

In the Caribbean last year India lost three consecutive Tests by margins of eight wickets, 217 runs and seven wickets, with largely the same batsmen they have here. To say they did not acquit themselves staunchly would be doing them a kindness and, if England's ship has been holed in similar storms more than once, it is now they who have the heavy artillery.

Malcolm has taken only five expensive wickets in the first two games of this series and has not looked at his happiest. Micky Stewart, the team manager, is confident that the problems have been resolved: "There were times at Lord's when he was struggling to find

his rhythm. We have worked on that, with the help of videos, and he is in a better frame of mind now. He obviously has an important part to play here, because he is much the quickest bowler in the match."

It seems possible that England will opt to play all four of their seam bowlers, giving a debut to Middlesex's Neil Williams and relying on the novice leg spin of Michael Atherton for variety. It is a debatable policy, but one to which the Indians are adding a little support by proposing to include a third seamer, Atul Wasson, instead of their second leg spinner, Anil Kumble.

Whatever England decide, it will be with nothing other than the current match in mind, which seems to scupper the notion that John Morris

might be promoted in the batting order so that the selectors can see him in more than a walk-on part before they have to choose the party to go to Australia.

Any mention of Australia yesterday was met by a classical straight bat from Stewart, who insisted: "The first and foremost thing is to win this Test match and this series. Australia will be looked at entirely separately because it will be a different sort of cricket. Nobody is on trial in this game."

Had he been within earshot, David Gower might have smiled whimsically at that remark, for although Stewart refused to be drawn on the issue, Gower is demonstrably on trial for his tour place. The strain of scrutiny on a talent glorious in its unpredictability was just beginning to tell last night.

No such problems affect Gooch, who now needs a further 90 runs in this match to overtake Don Bradman's record of 974 for an English Test summer, or Robin Smith,

currently averaging 297 in this series. It is not the making of runs which is likely to be England's main concern here.

One area on which they worked especially hard yesterday was the spacing and understanding of their slip fielders. Allan Lamb will continue at first slip despite having failed to move a muscle for two recent chances, but a slightly changed formation will be used. If Malcolm gets it right, there will be no scope for sloppiness in the slips; the match could depend upon it.

• More than 5,000 tickets remain for the first day's play today but Friday is already sold out and only a few dozen tickets are still available for Saturday.

**Australian influx**

Fulham will be reinforced by the arrival of four Australian rugby league players next month. Tim Dwyer, Greg Manthey and Shaun Mohr, who are backs, and Mark Lee, a forward, will join Dave Crukshank, the former South Sydney half back who was with Leeds last season.

## Yorkshire sever Bairstow links

By MARTIN SEARCY

DAVID Bairstow, the Yorkshire wicketkeeper, will not be offered another contract by the county, thus ending a 20-year association with their longest-serving player who made his debut at Park Avenue, Bradford, in June 1970.

Only Trevor Jesty and David Hughes, of Lancashire, and Eddie Hemmings, of Nottinghamshire, have been longer in the first-class game and the fortunes of Bairstow, aged 39 on September 1, contrast starkly with those of

Lancashire, who are fifth, having played at least one more match than those ahead of them. Unless the weather intervenes, by disrupting their rivals yet sparing them, they look out of the race.

On that day the Lancashire captain will lead his side out at Lord's in the final of the NatWest Trophy, while Bairstow captains the Yorkshire

Exiles against the county side in the Scarborough Festival. Bairstow, who is in a testimonial year, is Yorkshire's most successful wicket-keeper-batsman, three times completing 1,000 runs in a season and scoring 900. His 1,036 county victims put him third behind David Hunter (1,190) and Jimmy Binks (1,044), but neither made anything like his 12,485 runs.

Bairstow played for England in four Tests against India, 1979, West Indies in 1980, in the Centenary Test against Australia the same year and the third Test of the West Indian tour the following winter. He played in 21 limited overs internationals.

## Leeds facing expulsion if fans misbehave

By CLIVE WHITE

LEEDS United, newly promoted to the first division, face expulsion from the Football League and all Football Association competitions if measures outlined yesterday by the FA to curb the hooligan behaviour of some of their fans or who lost business as a result of damage. There were nearly 150 arrests at the Bank holiday match, 50 injuries and £40,000 worth of damage.

Leeds will be forced to play four consecutive home matches behind closed doors should their "supporters" be found guilty this season of a repetition of the kind of violence which caused havoc in Bournemouth on May 5 before and after a second division match.

The FA, announcing its findings at the completion of an inquiry into the rioting, warned that if that punishment was not enough to deter the hooligan element then the FA would apply the "ultimate sanction" — the unprecedented withdrawal of FA membership and by definition their right to play in the League as well as all FA competitions.

Following the Government's failure to implement a national membership card scheme, it will want to see evidence of football putting its house in order. But while the FA may believe that they have been seen to be doing just that in dealing with a club, who, ironically, operate a membership card scheme, Bournemouth regarded their action as no more than "a slap on the wrist".

"Leeds have got off lightly and they know it," Jim Nolan, the Bournemouth chairman, said. "The town of Bournemouth was sacked and mugged for four days. "Leeds spent £4m on players this summer and I would

"I don't know what more we can do short of blocking off the M1 and I am concerned that some people may see this as an opportunity to cause trouble for Leeds and get the ground closed."

The FA's findings were accepted by the League, which was criticised by the FA for not heeding the warning of the police about staging the Bournemouth-Leeds game on a bank holiday weekend. This season's fixtures, which have avoided Bank holiday matches at seaside resorts, have been compiled in close liaison with the police.

## Robson suffers another setback

By IAN ROSS

highly-rated Oldham Athletic midfield player.

Milligan will undergo a statutory medical examination at Goodison Park this morning and if he is given a clean bill of health the £1 million transfer will be officially ratified at lunchtime.

Vandalism resulted in a flood at Highbury, the home of Arsenal, yesterday. Thousands of gallons of water were pumped away by firemen after the changing rooms and lower tier of the East Stand in Avellino Road were flooded.

While club officials assessed the extent of the damage, police began an investigation into the incident. It is believed that vandals climbed over a wall, broke into the stand, turned on a fire hydrant and left it running.

• Steve Sutton, Nottingham Forest's unsettled goalkeeper, has been told by Brian Clough he will not play for the club again unless he signs a new contract (Chris Moore writes).

The patient of Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, was finally rewarded yesterday when he completed the signing of Mike Milligan, the Forest manager said.

## Leonard moves to Harlequins

By PETER BALL

THE England prop forward, Jason Leonard, the most successful newcomer on the recent tour of Argentina is leaving Saracens to join Harlequins.

Leonard, at the age of 21, considered potentially the first loose-head prop in the country, has attended training at Harlequins and is listed to accompany them to the Cornish weekend on a pre-season basis.

Two Grimsby professionals — Mike Hallett and Dean Reynolds — moved confidently into the quarter-finals with easy successes over local opposition. Reynolds thrashed the Hong Kong champion, Kenny Kwok, 5-0, while Hallett eased to a 5-1 victory against Franky Chan, the island's only professional.

**RESULTS** First round: J Wattana (Thail) v T Griffith (Wales), 5-0. France: S Wattana (Thail) 88-1, 75-2, 70-23, 76-18, 55-49. D Reynolds (Eng) v K Kwok (HKG), 5-0. France: S Wattana (Thail) 82-32, 72-27, 68-18. D Reynolds (Eng) v F Chan (HKG), 5-1. France: S Wattana (Thail) 75-23, 15-94, 72-18, 63-16, 63-53.

**Help sought**

By DAVID POWELL

ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Elliott has offered a pep talk to one of the five athletes he categorises as his main rivals to win the European 1,500 metres title in Split next week. Steve Cram, the mile world record holder whose fitness for a championship is under question, should take encouragement, Elliott said, from his example.

Elliott's supreme form in May, when he was the fastest 800 and 1,500 metres runner

in the world, was wrecked through June and July by a chest, a calf, a strain and a knee injury. Here on Tuesday, within hearing distance of the world's largest bell, Elliott gave the impression that when the little track-side one in Split sounds on Saturday week will be the athlete with the most left to give.

His time of 3min 34.12sec was proof, after the limited evidence of a 3:55.51 mile at Gateshead on Friday, that he

is fighting fit. Cram, too, has had his problems: calf, Achilles, gastro-enteritis. Instead of racing, he has opted for training this week in his final preparation for Split. Cram's 3:55.98 in Grosseto, Italy, last week is the only public statement that he may be a contender. Elliott has not discounted him, though, listing Cram, Jean-Peter Herod, Gennaro Di Napoli, Heribert Philippeau and Neil Horsfield

as the ones he must watch. "Two weeks ago I didn't think I would be going to the Europeans, but it is amazing what a week in athletics can bring," Elliott said. "Last week I trained hard on Monday and Wednesday and raced on Friday and I feel good again. I know people have got off him, though, listing

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**Q.**

If we've got all the questions, who's got all the answers?

**A.**  
You?

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THE SUNDAY TIMES  
BLACK SWAN QUIZ.

26 August

